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Green Beret officer Dave Whetstone illustrated the pages for his son Davidson's book, "Brave for My Family," right, published last month.

Labor of love

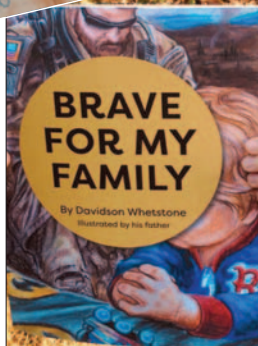
Book by Green Beret's 9-year-old son hits home for special operations troops and their families

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

The 9-year-old son of a Green Beret has written a children's book that gives a glimpse of what military families experience when their loved ones go off to fight. His father is nearing the end of his 10th deployment.

Titled "Brave for My Family," the book tells the story of the Christmas six years ago that young Davidson Whetstone spent with his father, Dave, who was recuperating at Walter Reed

SEE LOVE ON PAGE 4



Cockpit changes call into question Navy's claims of radar safety

By TARA COPP

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — On night missions in the 1980s, when the beam from the E-2 Hawkeye's radar swept over the cockpit, pilots could generate electrical arcs by

holding the metal bases of their flashlights close to the metal paneling around them.

The arcs: "would kind of light up the cockpit at night every time the radar went by," said retired Hawkeye pilot Navy Capt. Ralph Ricardo.

The Hawkeye is an early warning air-

craft that is highly recognizable by the large, dome-shaped radar on top of the plane. It is used to protect aircraft carriers by detecting enemy aircraft or missiles and also acts as an airborne command station for the Navy's fighter jets.

In flight, the Hawkeye's dome would

complete a full rotation and the beam would sweep above the cockpit about every 10 seconds.

Some pilots at that time wondered what the radar was doing to them when it swept

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Freed prisoner of Taliban says SEALs attempted rescue 6 times

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WAR ON TERRORISM

US military probing civilian deaths claim

By SUSANNAH GEORGE
The Washington Post

KABUL — The U.S. military command in Afghanistan said it is aware of allegations of civilian casualties after an airstrike targeted Taliban fighters in eastern Afghanistan. The strike was conducted Thursday in Khost province's Terezaizi district along the border with Pakistan, according

to the U.S. military statement.

"We are aware of the allegations of civilian casualties and working with local authorities to determine the veracity of these claims," the statement said, adding that the strike targeted three Taliban fighters.

American forces in Afghanistan have stepped up the air campaign against the Taliban over

the past year as the two sides are discussing reopening peace talks to end the war. During a visit Thursday to U.S. service members at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan, President Donald Trump asserted the Taliban is ready for a cease-fire, but Afghan and Taliban officials said informal discussions aimed at restarting the peace talks were still

ongoing.

A local lawmaker from Khost, Janmir Zazai, told The Washington Post the airstrike hit a vehicle, but he was unaware of the number of people killed. The Terezaizi district is also known as Alisher. As the American air campaign has intensified in Afghanistan, civilian casualties have increased. This year the United Nations has

recorded record numbers of civilians killed and wounded. According to a U.N. tally released in October, airstrikes have killed 579 civilians and wounded 306, nearly a third more than the previous year.

In September the United States dropped more munitions on Afghanistan than in any other month since 2010.

Freed Taliban prisoner recounts multiple rescue attempts by SEALs

Associated Press

SYDNEY — An Australian teacher held captive with an American colleague by the Taliban for more than three years believes U.S. special forces tried and failed six times to free them.

Timothy Weeks was released last month in a prisoner swap along with Kevin King, ending an ordeal that began with their abduction in 2016 outside American University in Kabul, where they worked.

Weeks, 50, told a news conference on Sunday he believed that Navy SEAL teams tried repeatedly to rescue them, sometimes missing them only by "hours" after the two hostages were moved to other locations by their captors.

"I believe — and I hope this is correct — that they came in six times to try to get us, and that a number of times they missed us only by hours," Weeks said.

One attempt came in April this year. Weeks said he was woken at 2 a.m. by his guards, who told him they were under attack from Islamic State fighters and moved him into a tunnel beneath where they were being held.

"I believe now that it was the Navy SEALs coming in to get us," Weeks said. "I believe they were right outside our door."

"The moment that we got into the tunnels, we were 1 or 2 meters underground and there was a huge bang at the front door. And our guards went up and there was a lot of machine-gun fire. They pushed me over the top into the tunnels and I fell backwards and rolled and knocked myself unconscious."

Weeks said he and King were shifted through various remote locations in Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan throughout their captivity and were often kept in tiny, windowless cells.

While their lives were often at risk, he said he never gave up hope of being rescued.

"I never, ever gave up hope, and I think in that sort of situation, that if you give up hope, there is very little left for you," said Weeks, flanked by his sisters Alyssa and Jo Carter.

"I knew that I would leave that place eventually. It just took a little longer than I expected."

While expressing thanks to President Donald Trump and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison for the work that led to their release, Weeks said some Taliban guards he had encountered were "lovely people."

"I don't hate them at all," he said. "And some of them, I have great respect for, and great love for, almost. Some of them were so compassionate and such lovely, lovely people. And it really led me to think about ... how did they end up like this?"



JEREMY PIPER, AAPIMAGE/AP

Former Taliban captive Timothy Weeks, of Australia, smiles during a press conference in Sydney on Sunday.

He added: "I know a lot of people don't admit this, but for me, they were soldiers. And soldiers obey the commands of their commanders. (They) don't get a choice."

Weeks said he had hugged some of his Taliban guards when they parted company on the day of his and King's release.

Still, the sight of the two U.S. Black Hawk helicopters arriving to take them away had been an enormous relief.

"From the moment I sighted both Black Hawk helicopters and was placed in the hands of special forces, I knew my long and tortuous ordeal had come to an end," he said.

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PACIFIC

US anti-terrorism team stays sharp in S. Korea drills

By MATTHEW KEELER
Stars and Stripes

WARRIOR BASE, South Korea — Marines from an anti-terrorism force stationed at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, are honing their skills on live-fire ranges just minutes from the Demilitarized Zone in South Korea.

Over 40 Marines from the Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team-Pacific, or FASTPAC, are living for two weeks at Warrior Base near the Demilitarized Zone, the sometimes-tense border between North Korea and South Korea. The practice ranges include training areas that simulate the real-life settings in which the Marines may be called upon to ply their trade.

"The training is environmental," Cpl. Justin Rohn, a squad leader, said Tuesday. "Certain areas that we get stationed at just don't have the resources available to us like Korea. Using the training facilities here gets us familiar with the environments we might end up in."

The Marines began the first of three days of training Nov. 25 at the New Mexico Range, part of the Story Live Fire Training Complex just a few minutes' drive from the DMZ. The range has a live-fire shoot-house, a building in which the Marines, using live ammunition, practiced room-clearing procedures.

Inside the structure, blue and red balloons identified targets as hostile or not hostile. Marines bounded from room to room, shooting the hostiles, searching them for intelligence and marking the rooms as cleared.

"Our job ... is an embassy security team, essentially," said Rohn. "If there is any issue that might break out inside our area of operation, our job will be to secure the area. If there is any evacuation that needs to be handled, we will assist and hold it down until a larger force can get time to mobilize and get to where they need to be."

The specialized teams are based at Yorktown, Va., but deploy for six-month rotations to various commands around the globe.

'We train to be on standby and be ready should we get the call to go.'

Capt. Michael Ragonese
platoon commander

world's population.

Last year, the same unit on alert as civil unrest broke out near the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti. The Marines did not deploy but were ready, nonetheless, Rohn told Stars and Stripes.

Typically, the Marines, once alerted, have 12 hours to be packed and ready to move to an airfield. Within six hours of a second call, the team may be on its way to a hot spot somewhere in



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

Marines from the Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team-Pacific, Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, train to clear rooms at Story Live Fire Training Complex, South Korea, on Tuesday.

the world, said platoon commander Capt. Michael Ragonese.

"We are an alert force at our core," he said. "We train to be on standby and be ready should we get the call to go somewhere."

The platoon expects to be at Warrior Base until mid-December,

getting more proficient at infantry tactics, combat marksmanship and with grenades.

Even so, the team could be called away any time from its training schedule to a real-world crisis, the captain said.

"This is an opportunity for

us to still sharpen those skills," Ragonese said. "We are constantly improving and constantly refining our processes. Should that call come, we are always at our most ready."

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Marines train to clear rooms at Story Live Fire Training Complex.



Marines from Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team-Pacific use a mock-up of the shoot-house to establish a plan for clearing the structure.

MILITARY

Marine honored for saving life of teen struck by car

BY STEPHEN FASTENAU
The Island Packet
(Hilton Head Island, S.C.)

Samantha Alexander was doing her best to keep the mind of a teenage boy off the severe cut across his leg.

"How old are you?" she asked him.

"What is your name?"

The 26-year-old Marine sergeant was driving home from her job at Marine Corps Air Station in Beaufort one afternoon in April, her 2-year-old daughter in the back seat.

The route took her past Battery Creek High School not long after school let out for the day. In the road ahead of her, a car applied the brakes and swerved to the side of the road, hitting two teenage boys riding bicycles home from school.

Alexander pulled her car over and jumped out. A woman was screaming "I'm so sorry!"

A man was already helping one of the boys, so Alexander stooped to help the boy who ap-

peared more seriously injured. She saw blood on his sweatpants and pulled them back to reveal exposed bone and tissue from a severe wound.

She removed her belt and secured it tightly around the boy's leg above the cut.

Alexander is not a medic; she describes her job as working in a warehouse. Officially she's a freight noncommissioned officer in charge in the Distribution Management Office and has been in Beaufort for two years.

But she learned as a recruit in boot camp how to identify the type of bleed and to apply a tourniquet.

"We all get the basic knowledge of how to help if we could," she said.

A bystander told Alexander he had an actual tourniquet in his truck, and she removed the belt and applied the new one. This might hurt, she remembers saying, but stay strong.

The 15-year-old boy complained that his wrist hurt but



AIDAN PARKER/U.S. Marine Corps

Sgt. Samantha Alexander receives the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal on Nov. 13 at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort for saving the life of a boy hit by a car in April.

appeared not to feel what was happening to his leg. He asked Alexander to call his mom, and she stayed with the boy until police arrived.

After paramedics took him to Beaufort Memorial Hospital, he was flown to Savannah.

Doctors said he had an arterial bleed and had to take a vein from his other leg to repair the injury.

They credited Alexander's actions for saving his life, the Marines said in a news release.

Alexander visited the teen after he was released from the hospital. They posed for a picture, the boy sitting in a wheelchair and sporting a cast on each wrist and metal rods supporting his injured leg.

Alexander was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal at

the air station on Nov. 13. She learned of the honor from her command only the day before and didn't have a chance to coordinate with the boy or his family about attending.

"I'm grateful for it," Alexander said. "But it wasn't why I did what I did."

Love: Book includes tips on supporting military kids and their families



Dave Whetstone

Davidson Whetstone and his Green Beret father Dave, author and illustrator respectively of the new book "Brave for My Family," are depicted praying in this illustration.

FROM FRONT PAGE

National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., after being wounded in a rocket-propelled grenade blast in Afghanistan. Whetstone is a pen name to protect the Special Forces soldier and his family.

Since its release on Veterans Day, the book has risen to No. 1 in Amazon's "children's American history of the 2000s" category.

"We've gotten a lot of response," the young author's mother Elizabeth Whetstone said in a phone interview Tuesday. "I'm just so proud of Davidson."

Now a third grader, Davidson had just finished kindergarten when he began writing "Brave for My Family," working with his father, who illustrated the book. The two saw the project as something that would give courage to other military children when their parents deploy; the family has said. Some of the proceeds from sales of the book will go to nonprofit organizations, such as the Green Beret Foundation, that support Special Forces and special operations troops' families.

An active-duty Special Forces officer, Dave Whetstone has deployed eight times since the birth of Davidson, the oldest of his four children, and 10 times overall. He was serving in Afghanistan on one those overseas tours when shrapnel from an RPG explosion tore through his right side, just missing one of the main arteries in his neck and damaging his right eye. As he was rushed first to a hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, then to Walter Reed, his wife flew the family to Maryland to be with him, arriving on Christmas Day 2013. Davidson was 3 at the time.

"My mom cried, and I was pretty scared that my dad was going to die," Davidson writes in the book.

A drawing depicting the father and son reunion at the hospital shows the bearded Green Beret's back and right arm pockmarked with fresh wounds, his eye bandaged, as he hugs a smiling Davidson.

"I hugged him because I was so happy he was alive," the boy writes.

The book recounts the weeks the family spent together in Washington, D.C., as Dave Whetstone healed, until the Green Beret decided to return to battle.

"While my Dad was in the hospital, the terrorists killed his friend in Afghanistan, so he had to go back to fight them," Davidson writes. "I felt so sad and angry."

While his father's away, Davidson tries to stay brave, he writes in the book, which includes tips on how to support military kids and families like his.

"I like to draw pictures for him," Davidson said by phone last week. Sometimes his Lego creations or stuffed animal friends deploy with his father and appear in videos Dave Whetstone records of himself reading to his children, or in video calls to the family.

The sacrifice of time away from his family rivals the pain of being wounded or losing comrades in battle, Dave Whetstone said in an email.

"Some of the toughest pills to swallow are not being there for first words, first steps, first Christmases, first birthdays, and all of the moments that I'll never see again," he wrote. "The hardest thing is watching my kids grow up in pictures."

Although the family was apart for Thanksgiving, the Green Beret is expected home for Christmas.

Often, when he's nearing the end of a deployment, Dave Whetstone considers the costs he and his colleagues — and their families — have paid over nearly two decades of war, he said.

"I think about friends who are gone, things I've had to do in war, and the memories my family [members] have that I won't be in," he said in an email.

"One of the tough aspects of this line of work is that lasting accomplishments can often be fleeting, but the pang of sacrifice remains long after history's moved on."

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MILITARY

NATO alters funding rules, prepares for summit with Trump

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

NATO touted increased allied spending and announced a new funding formula that reduces the amount the U.S. pays toward its running costs days before President Donald Trump was due to arrive in London for a summit to mark the alliance's 70th anniversary.

The moves appear aimed at addressing criticisms from Trump, who frequently complains the U.S. carries an unfair security and financial burden within the alliance.

While gatherings of NATO heads of state have historically been mundane, with leaders signing off on agreements that have been worked out in advance, this year there is an air of uncertainty over how events will play out — and Trump's skeptical views about NATO have added to it.

At NATO's previous summit in Brussels, Trump caused an uproar when he blasted Germany over its low level of defense spending and threatened that the U.S. would go its own way if allies didn't pull their weight and contribute more.

While NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg trumpeted the tweak to how NATO funds the running of its headquarters, it is a separate financial bucket from defense spending, the issue that has been the focus of Trump's complaints.

The U.S. will reduce its contribution to the so-called common fund from 22% to 16% while Germany increases its expenditure, NATO announced. That means the U.S. and Germany will each pay about 16%, with other allies paying the rest.

But cutting the amount the U.S. pays into the common fund is unlikely to distract Trump's focus on increasing the allies' defense spending. Nor will it smooth over differences between the allies over several security issues.

Still, Stoltenberg put a positive spin on military investment, noting that European allies and Canada have increased their input by 4.6% and that the number of allies that spend at least 2% of their country's economic output on defense will nearly double from five to nine this year.

"Allies are also investing billions more in new capabilities and contributing to NATO deployments around the world," he said in a statement days before the summit. "So we are on the right track..."

But Stoltenberg also warned member states not to allow disagreements "to undermine the strength of NATO."

Potential areas of contention

include rows with alliance member Turkey, how to deal with long-time foe Russia and a rising China, moribund nuclear weapons treaties, and even the current focus on boosting military spending.

"It is in our security interest to stand together," Stoltenberg told reporters in Brussels.

Focusing on NATO members' military spending is a distraction, French President Emmanuel Macron has said. Larger issues, such as dealing with how to respond to the U.S.' decision to pull out of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty with Russia, the need for more dialogue with Moscow and a strategy that doesn't define China as an adversary should dominate leaders' talks, he said.

"So as long as we did not sort out these issues, let us not negotiate about cost-sharing or burden-sharing," Macron told reporters in Paris on Thursday.

Macron's views on Russia and China appear at odds with official U.S. national security policy, which considers both countries adversaries and is focused on countering them in an era of "great-power competition."

Trump and Macron are expected to hold bilateral talks on alliance issues Tuesday in London.

"They have different priorities for the alliance," a senior White House official said Friday. "The president wants to make it stronger and the burden sharing more equitable. I think President Macron is still, kind of, working out what he wants."

Comments the French president made in early November — that the alliance was "brain dead" without U.S. leadership and that European allies can no longer rely on America to defend them — could also lead to tensions at the summit, as could Turkey, which has been building increasingly close ties with Moscow and recently acquired a Russian air defense system.

Turkey is reportedly threatening to block a NATO defense plan for the Baltics and Poland because some member states have refused to support Ankara's push to call the Kurdish YPG militia a terrorist group and a threat to allies, several media reports have said.

But while there may be a range of disagreements within NATO, Stoltenberg said the alliance has a long history of overcoming political disputes, such as the 2003 Iraq War when allies were able to look past differences. Members continue to unite around the "core task" of collective defense, he said, but added, "Yes, we have some obvious challenges."

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MILITARY

Changes: Retired pilot speaks out on concern about radiation exposure

FROM FRONT PAGE

past, if it could create such electrical arcs.

"Then, about halfway through my tour, all the sudden they decided to put the gold coating on all of the windows and the escape hatches," Ricardo said. After that, the pilots couldn't create the same electrical arcs, he said.

"It was obviously to keep the radar out of the cockpit," Ricardo said. "I thought, 'I've been flying for years without it, what's been happening to me in the meantime?'"

Former Navy and Air Force pilots or their surviving spouses have expressed to McClatchy their concerns about the high number of prostate, brain, blood and other types of cancers affecting their community, and some have wondered whether radars on military aircraft might have been a factor.

The afflicted

A McClatchy investigation in October found that four of the commanding officers at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake died of cancer in recent years. It also found that the Air Force was reporting a cluster of urogenital cancers among six of its F-15E Strike Eagle pilots and weapons systems officers between the ages of 33 and 43 at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in North Carolina and another among its Air Force Special Operations Command C-130 crews.

The E-2 Hawkeye pilots who spoke to McClatchy named other former pilots or crew members who also are facing cancer, or have died from the disease at relatively young ages.

Ricardo, for example, has been treated for dozens of carcinomas since he was 37.

His commanding officer from the 1991 Gulf War, Capt. J.J. George, died in 2011 at age 60 from lymphoma. In 2018, Ricardo lost one of his junior officers, E-2 Hawkeye pilot Cmdr. John Quinlan, who died three days before his 50th birthday from metastatic melanoma.

"I don't think the coating fixed the problem," Ricardo said.

The Navy has said a deeper review is not warranted because there is not enough evidence of an increase in cancers among its aviation community, nor evidence that the radiofrequency radiation emitted from aircraft radars causes cancer. When McClatchy asked the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery for copies of any previous Navy studies on radiation in the cockpits of its jets, the Navy said there were no previous studies.

Ricardo said he hopes that by speaking out, and by other pilots speaking out, the Navy will reconsider.

"I'd like to see them make sure that the pilots who fly their aircraft aren't exposed to hazardous radiation and an early death," Ricardo said. "That's what I'd like to see them do. I wish they had done it sooner."

Grumman Corp., which is now



Z.A. LANDERS/U.S. Navy

Lt. Kevin McMahon, left, and Lt. Spencer Smith, both assigned to the "Black Eagles" of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 113, pilot an E-2C Hawkeye 2000. The aircraft has been under investigation as a possible source of radiation causing cancer in multiple pilots.

the Northrop Grumman Corp., added the gold coating onto the cockpit glass in the 1980s after it received data on cockpit radiofrequency radiation levels from E-2 pilots who were testing Hawkeye radar upgrades for the company.

"I think it (the test results) alarmed Grumman and the Navy so much that they put an adhesive gold foil on the overhead windows," and later the side windows, said retired Navy Cmdr. Les Ryan, a former Grumman E-2 Hawkeye chief test pilot.

But that first generation of gold foil protection "was kind of a stopgap measure. It would peel at the corner, you could scratch it," Ryan said.

The research

In the absence of a current Navy-led study, former Navy pilots are trying to gather data themselves. Retired Navy Cmdr. Mike Crosby, a former F-14 radar intercept officer and founder of Veterans Prostate Cancer Awareness Inc., and members of several other aviator veterans groups are launching a survey to collect information from all current or retired military aviators who have been diagnosed with any type of cancer.

Now-retired Navy Cmdr. John Hammerstrom, the senior engineering test pilot who conducted some of the tests for Grumman, had also experienced the cockpit electrical arcs — by holding lead pencils near any metal in the cockpit when the radar swept over — while flying missions for the Navy.

Based on that experience, when Grumman was proposing a new, stronger radar in the early 1980s, he and a few others asked, "Can we look into this? And they said, 'No problem,'" recounted Hammerstrom, now retired, in an interview with McClatchy about those 1980s tests.



GRANT G. GRADY, U.S. NAVY/TNS

Documents obtained by McClatchy show that in the 1980s, levels of cockpit radiation in earlier models of E-2D Hawkeyes like the one above led to the protective gold foil now installed in cockpit windows.

Hammerstrom said that in 1982, he and other test pilots at the Grumman Flight Test Department began taking hand-held radiation meters into the E-2's cockpit to test for radiation levels during the radar's use in flight. Grumman's engineers taught Hammerstrom how to operate the meters and calculate the results, and he reported the measurements to them.

"Grumman was really supportive," Hammerstrom said.

Northrop Grumman was contacted about the cockpit radiation tests and declined to comment. National safety standards in 1982 lowered the safe level of human radiation exposure specific to the radiofrequency emitted from the Hawkeye's radar to between 1.3 to 1.5 mw/cm², or milliwatts over centimeters squared, which the American National Standards Institute reported would be the maximum safe amount of absorption for the human body.

Some of the numbers Hammerstrom recorded during flight were higher. In the first round of tests, readings taken at the pilot and co-pilot escape hatch positions were 3.6 and 4.0 mw/cm² when the

radar was in a "searchlight" or nonrotating, position. When the dome-shaped antenna was rotating, however, the levels recorded within known safe limits.

The team kept testing exposures in different configurations, including one where they covered the cockpit with aluminum foil shielding. When all cockpit glass was covered with foil, readings were also consistently within safe limits.

When the foil was removed, they reached as high as 10.8 mw/cm² above the co-pilot's escape hatch. The highest exposure recorded was in 1985, when a reading of 30.5 mw/cm² was registered above the co-pilot's escape hatch.

In an ensuing Grumman memo summarizing the 1982 test results, dated Feb. 22, 1983, the company reported that "an engineering study is underway to evaluate corrective action, such as coatings or screening materials." The memo also said, "A Navy letter is being prepared to document the problem and request a meeting."

The readings led to further review by Grumman and the addition of the gold foil to cockpits.

"I'm told that was one of the

reasons they ended up putting gold in different forms in the cockpit," Hammerstrom said.

The science

At the time, gold was also being studied at Texas A&M University to make better protective suits for working with radiation. "Gold, one of the heaviest chemical elements, is the basis of a new lightweight plastic foam under development as a radiation shield," a 1988 New York Times article reported.

The Grumman test readings are a rare insight into cockpit radiation. Of the aviation studies publicly available that focus on potential cancer exposure, most focus on the potential risk of exposure to harmful ionizing UV radiation experienced by flying at higher altitudes for prolonged hours, such as commercial flights across the Atlantic Ocean, not the nonionizing radiofrequency radiation produced by radars.

According to the World Health Organization, ionizing radiation contains enough energy to cause chromosomal changes, which can lead to cancer. Nonionizing radiation is defined as not containing sufficient energy to cause chromosomal changes.

However, in 2011 the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer classified radiofrequency radiation as a "possible" carcinogen based on increased rates of brain cancer that may be associated with it.

"This 'possible' designation means that there is a level of suspicion, but the evidence is not sufficient" for WHO to identify RF as a cancer agent, said Kenneth Foster, a professor of bioengineering at the University of Pennsylvania who specializes in nonionizing radiation.

Because there are so few pilots compared with the general population, it will be difficult to identify for certain what has caused these cancers, Foster said.

Due to "the rarity of cancer in the young adults who would be pilots, and the host of other things that they may have been exposed to, I think it would be difficult to establish any increase in cancer in these individuals and connect it with RF (radiofrequency) exposure," Foster said.

But military aviators are asking for a study of any health impact from radars as they question their past exposure and wonder how current and future pilots will be protected as the military continues to upgrade radars on its combat aircraft.

One Air Force study that did look at cockpit radar radiation exposure in the F-15 fighter jet in 2003 noted that no previous in-flight tests had been performed. The study measured three flights from the F-15 test center as an F-15D fighter jet and found normal levels of exposure.

Gen. David Goldfein, Air Force chief of staff, has pledged to look further into the issue, and the Navy has said that depending on what a new, more expansive Air Force study finds, they may consider conducting its own review.

NATION

Powerful winter storm reaches the Northeast

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A powerful winter storm that's been tormenting travelers across the U.S. since before Thanksgiving moved to the Northeast on Sunday, packing one last punch of snow and ice as people make their way home after the holiday weekend.

The National Weather Service predicted more than a foot of snow in swaths of upstate New York and New England, as well as ice accumulations in parts of Pennsylvania.

The same weather system has been punneling the U.S. for days as it moves cross country, dumping heavy snow from parts of California to the northern Midwest and inundating other areas with rain. The storm has been blamed for several deaths.

Major highways reopened Sunday in Wyoming and Colorado, a day after blizzard conditions clogged roads with snow drifts.

Road crews were able to re-open all of Interstate 25 and most of I-80 in Wyoming early Sunday



CODY BASHORE, ARIZONA DAILY SUN/AP

Street signs are covered in snow in Flagstaff, Ariz., on Friday. A powerful storm making its way east from California was moving into the Northeast on Sunday.

after strong winds abated. Major interstates in Colorado were re-opened. Still, authorities warned travelers to remain alert for slick conditions and blowing snow.

The city of Duluth, Minn., was blanketed with 19.3 inches of snow as of 6 a.m. Sunday. The

city issued a "no travel advisory" at noon Saturday and deemed the storm "historic."

As the storm shifted east, flight delays and cancellations were continuing to pile up — disrupting travelers heading home after Thanksgiving.

Rescuers search for girl swept away during storm

Associated Press

Rescuers with helicopters, drones, boats and dogs searched Sunday for a 6-year-old girl missing since Friday when a truck she was in was swept away while attempting to cross an Arizona creek swollen by runoff from a powerful storm.

A boy and a girl, both 5, were found dead Saturday, a day after nine members of a family gathered for a Thanksgiving celebration tried to cross the fast-moving creek in a military-style truck.

"We want to bring her home safely to her family," said Lt. Virgil Dodd, of the Gila County Sheriff's Office. "She needs to come home today, and we're going to do that today."

Authorities said two adults and four children were rescued safely by a helicopter Friday night near the small community of Tonto Basin, about 50 miles northeast of Phoenix.

Dodd confirmed Sunday that the number of people rescued was six after conflicting reports on Saturday. The children found dead were the son and niece of the adults.

The people in the truck live in various Arizona towns and were in the area to visit family for the

Thanksgiving holiday, Dodd said. The creek crossing was marked as closed when they attempted to cross.

Rescue teams from multiple agencies participated in the search, and authorities brought in a bulldozer to pull the truck from the creek bed Saturday.

"Searchers found the truck about 1,000 yards downstream from the crossing Friday night," Dodd said. "There was nobody in the truck."

A National Weather Service meteorologist said the agency issued a flood warning for the region that includes the Tonto Basin area at 8:53 a.m. Friday based on data from an upstream flooding gauge.

Meteorologist Sean Benedict in Phoenix estimated that up to 2 inches of rain fell in the area, with some of the runoff coming from snow that fell on nearby peaks.

The region got up to 4 inches of rain about a week before, Benedict said. "So the grounds were already pretty wet and that probably helped with the runoff."

Adverse conditions included heavy brush and slippery mud along the creek and frigid water from snowmelt, but officials said they remained hopeful.



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NATION

New Orleans shooting leaves at least 11 hurt

By LATESHIA BEACHUM

The Washington Post

A shooting on New Orleans's Canal Street injured 11 people, according to police.

Law enforcement responded to the sounds of gunshots at 3:21 a.m. Sunday near the French Quarter, where they found 10 people struck by gunfire, said Shaun Ferguson, superintendent of police, in a news conference.

"Our contingency that we had in place for the Bayou Classic coverage responded to a shooting in the 700 block of Canal," he said. "As such, we had officers right there within that very block that actually thought they were being fired upon and took a position to respond to this."

Ferguson said five people were transported to University Medical Center New Orleans and two others were sent to Tulane Medical Center.

The 11th victim walked into a hospital on

their own.

Two people are reported to be in critical condition, with one person suffering from a gunshot wound to the chest and the other with a gunshot wound to the torso, he said.

Police initially reported that a man was detained near the scene, but Ferguson said throngs made it difficult for responding officers to determine who was actually firing the shots.

Police are investigating the shooting by recovering various video footage and witness statements.

The shooting occurred while many visitors were in town celebrating the Bayou Classic, an annual football game between longtime rivals Grambling State University and Southern University.

In 2016, a shooting caused by an argument between two tourists during Bayou Classic weekend resulted in one fatality and the wounding of nine others.



MAX BECHERER, THE TIMES-PICTURE AND THE NEW ORLEANS ADVOCATE/AP

A woman looks out from inside a McDonald's restaurant as New Orleans police investigate the scene of a shooting Sunday on the edge of the city's famed French Quarter.

Confederate statue in Va. is again vandalized

Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — A Confederate statue in Charlottesville that became a rallying point for white nationalists has been vandalized again, this time with graffiti saying, "Impeach Trump."

News outlets report that the statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee was also spray-painted with "This is Racist."

Tarps were put over the graffiti and city officials expect a clean-up effort to start Monday.

The statue was vandalized earlier this year, with an explosive directed at President Donald



STEVE HELBER/AP

The statue of Robert E. Lee in Charlottesville, Va., that became a rallying point for white nationalists has been vandalized again.

Trump.

White nationalists seized on a city plan to remove the statue and flocked there in 2017 for a rally that turned violent and deadly.

The city's effort to remove the statue has been prevented by a judge amid ongoing litigation.

The statue has been vandalized several times previously.

9 killed, 3 injured in S. Dakota plane crash

Associated Press

CHAMBERLAIN, S.D. — Nine people died and three more were injured when a single-engine plane bound for Idaho crashed shortly after takeoff in South Dakota.

Peter Knudson, with the National Transportation Safety Board, told The Associated Press 12 people were aboard the Pilatus PC-12 when it crashed about 12:30 p.m. Saturday, shortly after taking off in Chamberlain, about 140 miles west of Sioux Falls.

Knudson said nine people were killed and three were injured. The small plane was bound for Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Authorities have not released the names of the victims.

Brule County emergency man-

ager Kathryn Benton told the Sioux Falls Argus Leader that the passengers ranged in age from 7 to 81. She said the three survivors were three men ages 28, 27 and 17.

Chamberlain and central south-central South Dakota was under a winter storm warning Saturday and Benton said planes were unable to land at Chamberlain at the time of the crash.

NTSB investigators were expected at the site later Sunday. Weather will be among several factors they will review, although no cause for the crash has been determined, Knudson said.

Inclement weather was making travel to the site difficult, he said.

ICE deports 'crucial witness' in Hard Rock Hotel collapse

The Washington Post

A metal worker considered a "crucial witness" in the collapse at the Hard Rock Hotel construction site in New Orleans last month was deported Friday to his native Honduras.

Lawyers for Delmer Joel Ramirez Palma, 38, said he may have been targeted for deportation because he voiced concerns about the project — a claim immigration officials have denied.

Palma escaped the 18-story structure by jumping between floors as the steel and concrete from the upper floors came crashing down around him. The Oct. 12 catastrophe left three workers dead and dozens of others injured.

Two days later, as he was recovering, federal immigration agents arrested Palma while he was fishing at a National Wildlife Refuge.

Palma was not authorized to work in the United States and had been fighting a removal order since 2016. He was scheduled to check in with Immigration and Customs Enforcement in mid-November.

Palma, who worked construction in New Orleans for 17 years, had repeatedly reported safety issues at the Hard Rock site to supervisors and was always told to go back to work, according to his lawyers, who helped him file a complaint with the Labor Department.

The day before the collapse, his lawyers said, he told some of his co-workers that he noticed the floor underneath him was moving, as if being shaken in an earthquake. When they discussed what happened later, they were within earshot of several supervisors, according to his lawyers.

Shortly after the incident, Palma spoke in a video interview with a Spanish-language news outlet about the collapse and his escape, and joined a lawsuit with other injured workers against the contractors and developers.

After spending weeks at an ICE staging facility in Alexandria, La., Palma was put on a Friday morning deportation flight to Honduras, ICE spokesman Bryan

Cox confirmed to The Washington Post on Saturday. Cox called claims that Palma was targeted for speaking out about the conditions at the construction site "false" and "wildly irresponsible."

"Mr. Ramirez-Palma's latest application for a stay of removal had already been denied by ICE on Oct. 3, more than a week before the incident cited by his supporters," Cox said in an emailed statement.

Days before Palma's deportation, the secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission asked the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees ICE, to release Palma and stop his deportation proceedings.

In a letter to William P. Joyce,

director of ICE's New Orleans field office, Secretary Ava Dejoie said Palma was a "crucial witness" in the ongoing investigation.

"His detention and pending deportation hamper the ongoing investigations," Dejoie wrote in the letter, which was obtained by The Post. "If he is deported, the public may never know what key information is being deported with him. The investigations will undoubtedly suffer."

Agents from the Fish and Wildlife Service questioned Palma as he was fishing at the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge. When he was unable to show them a valid driver's license, they called Border Patrol agents, who arrested him.

NATION

Sunny summer day ended with cloud of impeachment

By NANCY BENAC
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The forecast for July 25 was typical for Washington: sunny, mid-80s. President Donald Trump had good reason to be feeling bright and sunny himself.

It was the morning after Robert Mueller's congressional testimony at the conclusion of the Russia investigation, and Trump and his allies were expressing relief, thinking the rumblings about impeachment would at last fade, even if the special counsel hadn't offered the president the total exonerated Trump claimed.

By 7:06 a.m., Trump was tweeting positive reviews from his favorite TV show, "Fox & Friends," where co-host Ainsley Earhardt declared, "Yesterday changed everything; it really did clear the president."

An hour later, Trump moved on to a tweet talking up his approval ratings, the stock market, unemployment and more. "Country doing great!" he wrote.

But a reconstruction of what started as an unremarkable summer Thursday reveals that even before daybreak, anxiety was coursing through the White House about a coming phone call that didn't appear on the president's public schedule.

By nightfall, Trump had set in motion events that would trigger only the fourth impeachment inquiry in history, imperiling his presidency and further calcifying divisions in a polarized nation.

At the time, it seemed no one had a complete picture of what was about to happen. But through weeks of congressional investigation and hearings, a timeline of the day's events has emerged, offering a portrait of one of the most consequential days of Trump's presidency.

'Stray voltage'

Trump was scheduled to talk with Ukraine's new president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, at 9 a.m. Zelenskyy, a former comedian fond of showing off his bulging biceps, was angling to lock in a visit to the White House, a valuable currency that he hoped would demonstrate to Russia that he had Trump's backing.

Trump and Zelenskyy had gotten along just fine during their first chat in April, basically an exchange of pleasantries. National security officials were worried that this time would be different.

There were "some concerns that, you know, there could be some stray voltage," Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, the National Security Council's top Ukraine expert, testified later.

He was referring to growing indications that Trump was fixated on baseless conspiracy theories that Ukraine had tried

to take down candidate Trump in the 2016 elections. There was talk that Zelenskyy would get a White House visit only if he agreed to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden, one of Trump's top Democratic rivals, and the 2016 U.S. elections.

None of that was in the National Security Council's "call package," with its suggested talking points for Trump's conversation. Nor was any of that in the prewritten "readout" of the call, laying out what was expected to happen.

Shortly before the call, Gordon Sondland, the U.S. ambassador to the European Union, got on the phone with Trump to offer his own advice.

Sondland, working with Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani, had put together a plan under which Ukraine would get its White House meeting only in exchange for agreeing to investigations of Joe Biden and his son Hunter, who served on the board of a gas company in Ukraine, and the 2016 election, when Trump defeated Democrat Hillary Clinton.

At 8:36 a.m., Kurt Volker, then Trump's special envoy to Ukraine, texted a Zelenskyy aide after talking to Sondland: "Heard from White House — Assuming President Z convinces Trump he will investigate / get to the bottom of 'what happened' in 2016, we will nail down the date for visit to Washington. Good luck!"

Dour vs. obsequious

The half-hour call started with pleasantries but quickly took a sharp detour.

Trump, his voice lower than normal, was "dour," according to Vindman, who was among a dozen or more people listening in from the U.S. side.

Zelenskyy, overly eager to please, was "obsequious," according to Tim Morrison, Vindman's boss and one of the other sets of ears on the call.

Soon, Trump was stressing how much the U.S. had done for Ukraine and grousing about Europe's failure to do more.

And then came 10 words from Trump that triggered the impeachment investigation: "I would like you to do us a favor though."

Trump asked Zelenskyy to look into CrowdStrike, part of a debunked theory that Ukraine interfered in the 2016 election to benefit Clinton. From there, Trump segued to pressing for investigation of another discredited notion — that Biden had ousted a Ukrainian prosecutor who was looking into Hunter Biden's dealings with Burisma, the energy company where he was on the board.

Zelenskyy, speaking a mix of Ukrainian and choppy English, had one mission: find as many ways as possible to say yes, yes

and yes again.

More important to Trump, though, Zelenskyy promised that "all the investigations will be done openly and candidly."

Yet Zelenskyy wasn't committing precisely to the investigations of Democrats that Trump wanted. He was speaking generally of his commitment to clean up corruption in his country.

He was short one very important "yes."

'It was wrong'

Trump would later insist the call was "perfect," but some of those who listened were gravely alarmed.

The call ended at 9:33 a.m., and within an hour, Vindman was in the office of NSC staff John Eisenberg.

The idea of an American president pressuring a foreign leader to investigate his political foes was "troubling and disturbing," Vindman told congressional investigators. "I thought it was wrong."

Acting separately, Morrison, a Trump political appointee, also made his way to Eisenberg's office that day. Morrison was worried that details of the call would leak and damage Ukraine's bipartisan support in Congress.

Jennifer Williams, an adviser to Vice President Mike Pence who was also on the call, told legislators she found the call's detour into domestic politics "unusual and inappropriate."

'What was going on?'

The inbox for Laura Cooper's staff at the Defense Department filled in more pieces of the puzzle that afternoon.

A pair of emails from the State Department — one at 2:31 p.m., the second at 4:25 p.m. — made it clear that the Ukrainians were already worried about whether they would get hundreds of millions of dollars in U.S. military assistance that had been approved by Congress. It wasn't just about a White House visit.

The Trump White House wanted to hold up the aid until Zelenskyy made a public pledge to conduct investigations. Republicans have argued there was no "quid pro quo" — a pledge of investigations in exchange for military aid — because the Ukrai-



ALEX BRANDON/AP

President Donald Trump speaks during a July 25 ceremony for new Secretary of Defense Mark Esper. It was also the day of Trump's call with Ukraine's new leader, pressing him for a political favor.

nians weren't aware the aid was on hold when Zelenskyy spoke to Trump. But these emails indicate the Ukrainians knew or suspected the aid was frozen when the call took place.

Cooper, a deputy assistant defense secretary, also testified that her staff got a question that day from a contact at the Ukrainian Embassy asking "what was going on" with the assistance.

That night, at 6:44 p.m., a staffer in the White House's Office of Management and Budget signed a document that officially put the money on hold.

The document was signed by Mark Sandy, OMB's deputy associate director for national security, who told lawmakers that he had been handling aid appropriations for years and had never before been told to put one on hold. He had asked his bosses repeatedly why it was being done. He didn't get an answer.

Sunglasses, umbrellas

While fallout from the call ricocheted within the White House, much of Washington went about its business unaware of the looming threat to Trump. So did Zelenskyy.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who months later would give a green light to an impeachment investigation, was meeting with House Democrats when the call took place. Then she strode down the steps at the Capitol for an outdoor news conference. Whipping off her sunglasses, she pledged to make August "too hot to handle" for Republican senators who were blocking Democratic legislation.

On a rainy day in Ukraine, Zelenskyy's social media team posted a photo of the president

holding his own umbrella — and contrasted it with a photo of his predecessor relying on someone else to hold one.

Down the drain

Trump ended his day as he began it, in his comfort zone with Fox News.

On Sean Hannity's show, the president said he'd been "through hell" during the Mueller investigation. Hannity declared that with that investigation over, impeachment fantasies had been "totally completely flushed down the drain."

Eighteen days later, a whistleblower sent a nine-page complaint to Congress about the president's July 25 call.

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Police: Man arrested sitting naked in car

NC KNIGHTDALE — Police said they arrested a man on Black Friday after he was spotted sitting naked in a car at a shopping center.

Knightdale police said an officer smelled marijuana coming from vehicles in a parking lot next to a Kohl's store when he spotted Tylik Shawdu Little, 28, sitting nude in a car.

Police said Little tried to drive away after the officer ordered him to get dressed. Police said the man stopped a short distance away and was later taken into custody.

Little, who is from Virginia, was charged with indecent exposure, marijuana possession and resisting arrest.

Police said he was held at a local jail.

Merchants wary after spate of fake \$100 bills

NH CONCORD — Holiday shoppers paying with \$100 bills in downtown Concord should be prepared for some extra scrutiny after a spate of transactions involving counterfeit money.

The Concord Monitor reported that at least two store owners have stopped accepting \$100 bills, while others will be taking a closer look or accepting only newer versions that have more security features.

Authorities said at least three local businesses took in fake \$100 bills earlier this month.

Wrong-way driver charged with DUI

CT MONTVILLE — State Police arrested a man they alleged was under the influence of drugs or alcohol when he drove the wrong way on a highway Thanksgiving morning.

State troopers arrested Faissal Awad, of Norwich, 61, early Thursday after receiving several calls about a driver going the wrong way on an interstate in Montville.

Troopers found the vehicle driving north in the southbound lanes of I-395 in Norwich and safely stopped the car around 2 a.m.

Police say officer's order had 'PIG' on cups

OK GLENPOOL — A police chief said an officer bought Starbucks for 911 dispatchers working on Thanksgiving only to find that the word "PIG" was printed on the cups' labels.

The officer notified Kiefer Police Chief Johnny O'Mara, who called the store and spoke to a manager.

The officer told KTUL-TV that the employee reached out to him personally and apologized, saying it was a joke.

In a Friday statement, Starbucks said the worker who wrote the offending word on the cup "acted poor judgment and is no longer a partner" after the violation of company policy.



NAM Y. HUN/AP

A bus instead of a sleigh

Chicago Transit Authority will operate on 15 different bus routes throughout Chicago during the holiday season. The bus exterior features **Ralphie the Reindeer** with his bright green nose. The interior of this bus, in Skokie, Ill., features artwork created by students at Perkins Bass Elementary School in Chicago.

Gator disinvented for Thanksgiving dinner

FL PORT MYERS — A Florida family refused to make room for their Thanksgiving table for an uninvited guest, who was so angry at being left out that he repeatedly slammed the front door.

Homeowner Chhava Behary said she peeked through her window to get a good look at the unwanted visitor and saw what she called a "gigantic" alligator smacking her door with its tail.

Police arrest 3, seize stolen cards, fake IDs

MI OAK PARK — Authorities arrested three people and seized stolen credit cards and fake identification cards from a home.

WXYZ-TV reported that a team of police officers raided a duplex in Oak Park on Friday morning.

Detroit police Capt. Conway Petty said credit card machines and driver's licenses from several states also were recovered from the home.

Some credit cards were stolen. Others were manufactured by the suspects. They were used at car rental companies, hotels, restaurants and shopping outlets.

The suspects are 20, 27 and 31. Police said they others are involved.

THE CENSUS

16

The number of hours rescuers searched for a kite surfer near Ocean City, N.J., before he called authorities to let them know he was safe. A witness called 911 on Thursday afternoon to report the kite surfer, who was unnamed, was seen drifting out to sea after falling off a kiteboard about 500 yards off Corson Inlet. The search covered 550 square miles before the man contacted the Coast Guard to let them know he had paddled ashore.

'Purple paint' law will warn trespassers

PA HARRISBURG — The state will allow landowners to legally notify hunters and others that they're trespassing by painting purple stripes on trees or posts.

A bill signed Wednesday by Gov. Tom Wolf is designed to ease a landowners' task of posting "no trespassing" signs that deteriorate over time. The law takes effect in 60 days.

The purple stripes must be vertical lines at least 8 inches long and 1 inch wide. They must be 3 to 5 feet off the ground, readily visible to a person approaching the property and no more than 100 feet apart.

The law applies everywhere, except in Philadelphia and Allegheny County.

Numerous other states have adopted a purple paint law, and paint manufacturers have formulated cans of spray and brush paint.

Police: Fleeing man threw kids over fence

GA SMYRNA — Police said a suburban Atlanta man threw his 1-year-old son and 4-year-old daughter over a barbed wire fence while fleeing officers.

The Marietta Daily Journal reported police began chasing Deandra Trevon Leonard, 34, as he walked along the center turn lane of a busy street, pushing the children in a stroller.

Police said Leonard disobeyed commands to stop, throwing the boy and girl over a 7-foot-tall barbed wire fence.

Police said the son landed on his face and suffered scratches. Both children were trapped inside until after police arrested Leonard.

He's charged with two felony counts of cruelty to children, and misdemeanor counts of walking on a roadway, giving a false name and obstructing police.

Man charged with using backhoe to steal truck

AK FAIRBANKS — A 51-year-old man suspected of using a backhoe to steal a truck has been charged with felony vehicle theft and evidence tampering.

Raymond Sharp is also charged with misdemeanor criminal trespass and violating conditions of release.

He is represented by the Alaska Public Defender Agency.

City puts museum on notice over bills

UT SALT LAKE CITY — The Leonardo art and science museum faces possible eviction if it doesn't cover payment for nearly \$400,000 in unpaid utility bills, city officials said last week.

The mayor's office sent a notice of default to museum staff in October, listing the city's grievances, The Salt Lake Tribune reported.

Among them are utility fees at least six months past due.

Another is safety-related maintenance problems like a broken window above a children's play area and a check of sprinkler systems. The newspaper obtained the letter through a public records request.

From wire reports

FACES



PHOTOS BY CLAIRE FOLGER/Lionsgate

The terrific ensemble cast of "Knives Out" includes, from left: Don Johnson, Jamie Lee Curtis, Chris Evans, K Callan, Ana de Armas, Christopher Plummer, Michael Shannon, Jaeden Lieberher, Riki Lindholm, Toni Collette and Katherine Langford.

'Summer camp for movie stars'

Director Rian Johnson reveals how his whodunit 'Knives Out' cast came together

By SONIA RAO
The Washington Post

While the concept of genre has lost favor among some artists, others adamantly embrace it. Filmmaker Rian Johnson considers himself to be the latter sort, pointing to his latest project as proof. "Knives Out," which opened last week, is a whodunit revamped for the modern era.

"I've always loved genre and working in it," the writer-director said. "I find it gives me freedom, weirdly, an opportunity to work within that space. One of the obvious things genre gives you is a shared grammar with the audience. It gives you a chessboard to play on with the audience... They know when you're playing by the rules. They know when you're breaking them."

With "Knives Out," Johnson broke the rules on multiple levels — perhaps not unexpectedly, given the inventive storytelling of his last feature, "Star Wars: The Last Jedi." Not only did he subvert expectations of the genre by embedding reveals throughout, as opposed to a whopper at the end, but he also defied industry trends by writing his own mystery. There aren't any other pieces of intellectual property at play here, though he credited the way Agatha Christie's novels engaged with contemporary British society as inspiration for his decision to ground "Knives Out" in modern-day America.

The film, largely set in a gothic Massachusetts mansion, employs a double narrative: One takes place in the present, when private eye Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig) and a local detective (LaKeith Stanfield) attempt to figure out who killed wealthy novelist Harlan Thrombey (Christopher Plummer) on his 85th birthday; the second explores the night of the crime, which Johnson revisits to highlight what each member of the quarreling Thrombey family — played by Jamie Lee Curtis, Don Johnson, Chris Evans, Michael Shannon and Toni Collette, joined by Ana de Armas — was up to at the time.

Rian Johnson would be the first to tell you that "Knives Out" is anything but subtle.

Making an original film that "engages with the here and now," gave him the opportunity to weave in droll social commentary.

The film's black comedy often delves into politics. One of the running gags concerns the fact that the Thrombeys don't seem to know which South American country Harlan's loyal caretaker, Marta Cabrera (de Armas), hails from.

The uneasy dynamic between the Thrombeys and Marta, one of Harlan's only confidants in the last few years of his life, makes "Knives Out" the latest film this year to explore class conflict. (The theme has also proved popular at the box office, given how well "Parasite," "Hustlers," "Joker" and "Ready or Not" performed.) Though the family insists they will take care of Marta after Harlan's death, they are quick to turn on her — even threatening the status of her undocumented mother — at the slightest inkling that her presence in the household could threaten their inherited wealth.

'[Class conflict] is something that a whodunit is uniquely suited to and always has been ... It's just something the genre is good at.'

Rian Johnson
director, "Knives Out"

like "Parasite" come out, this chance to examine class today," Johnson said. "It's something that a whodunit is uniquely suited to and always has been, if you think about 'Gosford Park.' It's just something the genre is good at."

"What's interesting is using each one of these characters to dig into all these different facets in the power dynamic in this family, that kind of reflects society as a whole."

This required assembling a cast adept enough to play the caricature-like figures without going too far. It began with Craig, whose star power Johnson credited with



Actors Chris Evans, left, and Ana de Armas get pointers from director Rian Johnson.

getting the movie made. Craig plays Benoit with a theatrical Southern accent and an occasional mad gleam in his eyes.

Johnson could tell the James Bond actor was "salivating at the chance to chew on this part," similar to how with Evans, who was fresh off playing Captain America, viewers will likely be able to detect "the relish with which he digs into playing a real jerk."

"Once Daniel was on board, it made my life very easy because everyone wants to work with Shannon," the director said. "I think Michael Shannon was the next one that signed up, and everyone wants to work with him, and then LaKeith. It was like a snowball rolling down the hill."

As someone who describes himself as a West Coast kid, Johnson considered New England to be an apt setting for a murder mystery because "there's an exotic element to East Coast fall to me — it's like a different planet." Costume designer Jenny Eagan's selections — such as Evans' luxurious sweaters — reflect old money, a vibe set off-kilter by the strange set.

"The house did not look like that when we showed up," Johnson noted. "The people who live there are not maniacs. Our production designer, David Crank, and our set decorator, David Schlesinger, they filled that house up with all this esthetic stuff."

The cast had a ball making "Knives Out" reflected in their vivacious performances.

"There were no movie-star egos," Johnson said. "Don Johnson always said it felt like doing summer camp [theater]. In between takes, they wouldn't go into trailers, they'd go into the basement of this house, this funky little rec room, and tell actor war stories and play games. It was like summer camp for movie stars."

Rod Stewart now rocking model railroad

By GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

Rod Stewart, known for decades as a consummate crooner, rocker, fashion plate and tongue-in-cheek sex symbol, is adding a new element to his image: serious model railroad builder.

The former front man of the Faces who has since dating back to the 1960s has put the finishing touch on a 23-year project that has landed him on the cover of Britain's Railway Modeller magazine. It's a far cry from Rolling Stone, whose cover he has graced many times.

Stewart

The model is an ambitious portrayal of a gritty American city in 1945, representing a combination of New York and Chicago. It's an artistic success, one that Stewart didn't outsource but designed and constructed from start to finish, with some help with the electrical and computer connections.

"It's the detail that I'm proud of," Stewart said.

Stewart is modest about his like "Maggie May," but proud of his railway design skills. "Absolutely amazing detail," Stewart said. "There's garbage in the streets, the windows are filthy, there's everything you can imagine in real life is on the railroad."

He grew up in London across the street from a railroad line and has been fascinated by trains ever since, taking mental notes on his extensive world travels.

When he got around to building a house in Beverly Hills, he added a room at the very top for his oversized model railroad. He would typically go up there for three or four hours at a time, quietly stepping away from his family and his musical responsibilities.

"It wasn't a whim, it took a bit of planning, and 23 years later it's finished," Stewart said.

Now that the project is completed, he's got more time for music. The 74-year-old singer says that for some reason it's easier for him to write songs than it used to be.

He's promoting a new record — his best-known songs backed by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Released Nov. 22, it's called "You're In My Heart."

Model-actor Gao dies on set in China

Taiwanese-Canadian model-actor Godfrey Gao has died after suffering an apparent heart attack while on set in China.

Gao, 35, was filming "Chase Me," a Chinese sports reality show in the eastern Chinese city of Ningbo, on Wednesday when he died. His agency, JetStar Entertainment, confirmed his death on its official Facebook page.

From The Associated Press

WORLD

Officials ID 2 victims of London stabbing attack

By GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON — Three of the five people who were killed or wounded in the London stabbing attack were former Cambridge University students or staff members who had gathered for an event designed to connect graduate students with prisoners to study criminology, police and the university said Sunday.

The two fatalities were identified as Saskia Jones, 23, and Jack Merritt, 25, who had already been named by his family as having perished in the attack Friday near London Bridge.

"Both were graduates of the University of Cambridge and were involved in the Learning Together program — Jack as a coordinator and Saskia as a volunteer," police said.

Started five years ago, the program was designed to bring Cambridge University graduate students together with prisoners to study criminology in an effort

to reduce stigma and marginalization experienced by many inmates.

One of the wounded was identified as a university staff member. The three survivors were not named. Officials said one was released from the hospital Sunday and the others are in stable condition.

Saskia Jones' family described her as having "a great passion for providing invaluable support to victims of criminal injustice, which led her to the point of recently applying for the police graduate recruitment program."

Merritt's family said, "Jack lived his principles; he believed in redemption and rehabilitation, not revenge; and he always took the side of the underdog."

The gathering where the attack broke out had been meant to celebrate the fifth year of the program, university Vice Chancellor Stephen Toope said.

"What should have been a joyous opportunity to celebrate the achievements of this unique and

socially transformative program, hosted by our Institute of Criminology, was instead disrupted by an unspeakable criminal act," Toope said.

The attacker, Usman Khan, was apparently attending the event and had returned for the afternoon session when he started stabbing people. Police believe he acted alone.

Khan was a convicted terrorist who had secured early release from prison. He was shot dead by police after he was restrained by civilians. Police opened fire after he flashed what looked like a suicide vest, but it was a fake device.

Dr. Vin Diwakar, medical director for the NHS in London, said doctors are dealing with the survivors' physical injuries, but that it may be weeks before the mental trauma can be assessed.

"The psychological impact of such events sometimes only comes to light in the days and weeks afterwards," he said.

Iraq OKs resignation of prime minister

By ERIN CUNNINGHAM
The Washington Post

BAGHDAD — Iraq's parliament on Sunday approved the resignation of embattled Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi following weeks of protests calling for his ouster and sweeping reform to the political system.

Abdul Mahdi, 77, announced Friday his plans to resign after violence erupted overnight across several cities and security forces killed at least 45 demonstrators in a single day.

The country's top Shiite cleric, Ayatollah Ali Sistani, also urged lawmakers to withdraw their support from Abdul Mahdi's government.



KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

Anti-government protesters wave flags on Rasheed Street, which is closed by security forces, in Baghdad on Sunday.

More than 430 people have been killed since protests over unemployment, corruption and a lack of government services began two months ago, a human rights official said Sunday. He spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release casualty figures to the media.

Parliament now has 15 days to choose a new prime minister. Once a candidate is approved by

the president, the new premier has another 30 days to form a government, legal experts said.

But Iraqi lawmakers are already deeply divided, and any new government would inherit a restive nation eager for change. Protesters say that they want new election laws and an end to the power-sharing system that divides ministries and other government spoils among an ossified political elite.



GERARDO SANCHEZ/AP

Coahuila state Gov. Miguel Riquelme Solis looks at a police vehicle damaged during a gunbattle between Mexican security forces and suspected cartel gunmen in Villa Union, Mexico, on Saturday.

Mexican forces chase group from border fight

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexican security forces on Sunday killed seven more members of a presumed cartel assault force that rolled into a town near the Texas border and staged an hourlong attack, officials said, bringing the death toll to at least 21.

The Coahuila state government said in a statement that lawmen were still chasing remnants of the force that arrived in a convoy of trucks and attacked the city hall of Villa Union on Saturday.

Gov. Miguel Angel Riquelme said at least 14 people had died by that afternoon, four of them police officers. He also said that several municipal workers were missing. It wasn't clear if they had since been located.

The new statement did not give a new death total but said seven more attackers were killed on Sunday in addition to 10 who reportedly died the day before.

The governor said the armed group stormed the town of 3,000 residents in a convoy of trucks, attacking local government offices and prompting state and federal forces to intervene. Bullet-riddled trucks left abandoned in the streets were marked C.D.N.

— Spanish initials of the Cartel of the Northeast gang.

The town is about 35 miles south-southwest of Eagle Pass, Texas, and 12 miles from the town of Allende — site of a 2011 massacre involving the Zetas cartel in which officials say 70 died.

Videos of the shootout posted on social media showed burned-out vehicles and the facade of Villa Union's city hall riddled with bullets. Rapid gunfire could be heard in videos along with frantic people telling friends to stay indoors.

The governor said security forces would remain in the town for several days to restore a sense of calm.

Mexico's murder rate has increased to historically high levels, inching up by 2% in the first 10 months of the presidency of Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador. Federal officials said recently that there have been 29,414 homicides so far in 2019, compared with 28,869 in the same period of 2018.

The November slaughter by Mexican drug cartel gunmen of three women who held U.S. citizenship and six of their children focused world attention on the rising violence.

UN secretary-general warns of 'point of no return' on climate change

By ARITZ PARRA
AND FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

MADRID — U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Sunday that the world's efforts to stop climate change have been "utterly inadequate" so far and there is a danger global warming could pass the "point of no

return."

Speaking before the start Monday of a two-week international climate conference in Madrid, the U.N. chief said the impact of rising temperatures — including more extreme weather — is already being felt around the world, with dramatic consequences for humans and other species.

He noted that the world has

the scientific knowledge and the technical means to limit global warming, but "what is lacking is political will."

"The point of no return is no longer over the horizon," Guterres told reporters in the Spanish capital. "It is in sight and hurtling toward us."

Delegates from almost 200 countries will try to put the fin-

ishing touches on the rules governing the 2015 Paris climate accord at the Dec. 2-13 meeting, including how to create functioning international emissions trading systems and compensate poor countries for losses they suffer from rising sea levels and other consequences of climate change.

Guterres cited mounting scientific evidence for the impact that

man-made emissions of greenhouse gases are already having on the planet, including record temperatures and melting polar ice.

But he insisted that his message was "one of hope, not of despair."

"Our war against nature must stop and we know that that is possible," he said.

WORLD

Hong Kong pro-democracy rally cut short by tear gas

By EILEEN NG
Associated Press

HONG KONG — Thousands took to Hong Kong's streets Sunday in a new wave of pro-democracy protests, but police fired tear gas after some demonstrators hurled bricks and smoke bombs, breaking a rare pause in violence that has persisted during the 6-month-long movement.

In the largest of three rallies, a key thoroughfare along the water-

front on the Kowloon side of Victoria Harbour was packed with demonstrators, from hardened masked protesters in all-black outfits to families and the elderly. They chanted "Five demands, not one less" and "Disband the police force" as they marched.

The rally followed two other marches earlier Sunday as protesters sought to keep the pressure on city leader Carrie Lam after the recent win by the pro-democracy camp in district council

elections and U.S. support for their cause.

"If we don't walk out, the government will say it's just a youth issue, but this is a Hong Kong problem that affects all of us," Lily Chau, 30, said as she pushed her toddler in a stroller at the Kowloon march. "If we are scared, the government will continue to trample on our rights."

Slogans spray-painted along walls and on sidewalks reminded the crowd that "Freedom is not

free" and pledged "Victory at all costs."

The Kowloon rally was cut short after riot police fired tear gas and arrested a few people. A police statement said minimum force was deployed after "hundreds of rioters hurled smoke bombs" and bricks to cause chaos.

Marchers berated police as they scrambled to flee the tear gas, shouting "Dirty cops" and "Are you trying to kill us?"

Some protesters dug up pav-

ing stones and threw them on the street to try to slow the police down.

Officers earlier also use pepper spray after some protesters deviated from the approved route.

Hong Kong's protests have been relatively peaceful during the two weeks around the Nov. 24 elections, but Sunday's disruption indicated there may be more violence if Lam fails to yield to protesters' demands.

Algeria's presidential campaign marred by eggs, protests and apathy

By AOMAR OUALI
Associated Press

ALGIERS, Algeria — Algeria's presidential campaign is in trouble. Candidates are struggling to fill rally venues, campaign managers have quit, voters have pelted campaign headquarters with tomatoes and eggs, and the country's 9-month-old pro-democracy movement calls the whole thing a sham.

The five candidates seeking to replace President Abdelaziz Bouteflika in the Dec. 12 election have failed to captivate a disillusioned public. Bouteflika was pushed out in April after 20 years in power amid an

exceptional, peaceful protest movement, and now demonstrators want a wholesale change of political leadership.

Instead, the election is managed by the long-serving power structure of this oil and gas-rich country with a strategic role in the Mediterranean region. Instead of new faces, two of the candidates are former prime ministers and one is a loyalist of Algeria's influential army chief.

The Hirak protest movement held their 41st weekly demonstrations Friday, denouncing the presidential election. But for the first time, thousands of pro-government supporters held their own rally

Saturday.

The candidates have tried to convince voters that taking part in the election is the only alternative to chaos, an allusion to the civil war that ravaged Algeria in the 1990s. But that argument falls flat among the protesters, who have been overwhelmingly peaceful, with demonstrators calming each other down and ensuring that no one provokes police.

Tensions mounted last week when Algerians started holding evening marches to denounce the elections. Several demonstrators were arrested, and some have already been convicted to prison terms.



TOUFIK DOUBOU/AP

Demonstrators protest against the government and presidential elections in Algiers, Algeria, on Friday.



SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



Dental

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Transportation

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STARS AND STRIPES

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Black Friday online sales hit a record \$7.4B



Jeff Chiu/AP

Shoppers carry bags as they cross a street in San Francisco on Friday. While many people shopped at stores on Black Friday, online sales hit a record \$7.4 billion in transactions.

Associated Press

NEW YORK — This year's Black Friday was the biggest for online sales, as fewer people hit the stores and shoppers rang up \$7.4 billion in transactions from their phones, computers and tablets.

That's just behind the \$7.9 billion haul of last year's Cyber Monday, which holds the one-day record for online sales, according to Adobe Analytics. Adobe measures sales at 80 of the top 100 U.S. online retailers.

Adobe expects online sales to jump to another record Cyber Monday with an estimated total of \$9.4 billion. Much of the shopping is happening on people's phones, which accounted for 39% of all online sales Friday and 61% of online traffic.

Shoppers have been looking for "Frozen 2" toys in particular. Other top purchases included sports video games and Apple laptops.

All the online shopping may have helped thin the crowd at malls on Black Friday.

Traffic at stores fell 2.1% on Black Friday from a year ago, according to preliminary figures from RetailNext. It tracks in-store activity at tens of thousands of locations, including specialty apparel retailers, big-box stores and mall-based stores. The drop in traffic helped lead to a 1.6% dip in sales.

Online and in-store shopping aren't always completely separate, though. Many people buy things online, only to lead to the store to pick them up. Such sales surged

43.2% on Black Friday from a year ago, according to Adobe.

This holiday shopping season may be the most hurried in years because it's the shortest since 2013. Thanksgiving this year fell on the last Thursday in November — the latest possible date it could be.

Economists say strong spending by households is helping to bolster growth and make up for weak confidence among businesses given all the uncertainties about the U.S.-China trade war and other factors.

EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Euro costs (Dec. 2) | \$1.1287 |
| Dollar buys (Dec. 2) | 40.886 |
| British pound (Dec. 2) | \$1.32 |
| Japanese yen (Dec. 2) | 106.80 |
| South Korean won (Dec. 2) | 1,150.00 |
| Commercial rates | |
| Bahrain (Dinar) | 0.3770 |
| British pound | \$1.2903 |
| Canada (Dollar) | 1.3297 |
| China (Yuan) | 7.0298 |
| Denmark (Krone) | 6.7915 |
| Egypt (Pound) | 16.1206 |
| Euro | \$1.1001/0.9090 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | 7.8281 |
| Hungary (Forint) | 303.40 |
| Israel (Shekel) | 3.4721 |
| Japan (Yen) | 109.55 |
| Kuwait (Dinar) | 0.3037 |
| Norway (Krone) | 9.1936 |
| Philippines (Peso) | 50.86 |
| Poland (Zloty) | 3.92 |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 3.7500 |
| Singapore (Dollar) | 1.3674 |
| South Korea (Won) | 1,180.99 |
| Switzerland (Franc) | 1.0011 |
| Thailand (Baht) | 30.24 |
| Turkey (Lira) | 5.7452 |

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom for nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| Prime rate | 4.75 |
| Discount rate | 2.25 |
| Federals funds market rate | 2.50 |
| 3-month bill | 1.56 |
| 30-year bond | 2.20 |

US' Friday shopping frenzy goes global

Associated Press

PARIS — People don't celebrate Thanksgiving in France, or Russia, or South Africa — but they do shop on Black Friday.

The U.S. sales phenomenon has spread to retailers across the world in recent years with such force that it's prompting a backlash from some activists, politicians and even consumers.

Near Paris, climate demonstrators blocked a shopping mall and gathered in front of Amazon's headquarters to protest over-production they say is killing the planet. Workers at Amazon in Germany went on strike for better pay. Some French lawmakers want to ban Black Friday altogether.

Consumer rights groups in Britain and some other countries say retailers use Black Friday as a slogan to lure in shoppers, but it's not always clear how real or big the discounts are. Other critics say it hurts small businesses.

businesses.

Globalized commerce has brought U.S. consumer tastes to shoppers around the world, from Halloween candy to breakfast cereal and peanut butter, sometimes even supplanting local traditions.

In Britain, where the big winter sales have traditionally been held on the day after Christmas, companies have adopted Black Friday marketing campaigns since about 2010. After a rise in business on the day in the first years, the volume of shopping has leveled off, with most of it happening online over multiple days.

Research by a U.K. consumer association found that 61% of goods advertised in Black Friday deals last year were cheaper or about the same price before and after the event.

That echoes similar warnings in other countries. Russia's consumer watchdog published detailed tips on how to avoid getting fooled, like checking whether prices were

raised before Friday to make deals look good or whether delivery costs are inflated.

The Black Friday advertising push has extended beyond the one day to Cyber Monday, with retailers in several countries spreading them across what's often called "Black Week."

While the phenomenon is less widespread in Asia, some major companies like Japan Airlines use it as a slogan.

Broadcasters in South Africa showed people waiting in line to shop in one of the world's most socially and economically unequal nations. The respected weekly Mail & Guardian newspaper decried in a scathing editorial how Black Friday is used to enrich big retailers.

"Like no other day, this Friday shows how broken the world we have built is," it said.

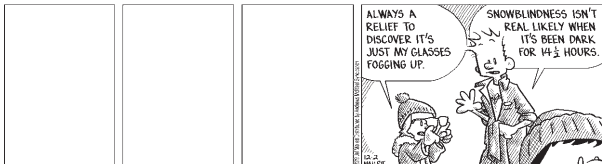
The term Black Friday comes from retailers' claim that it was the day when they went from being loss-making for the year — in the red — to making a profit — in the black.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

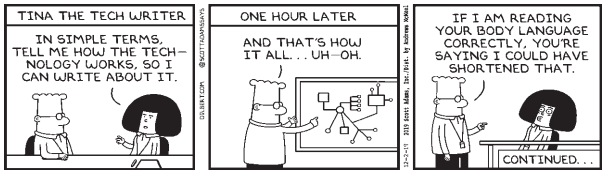


The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

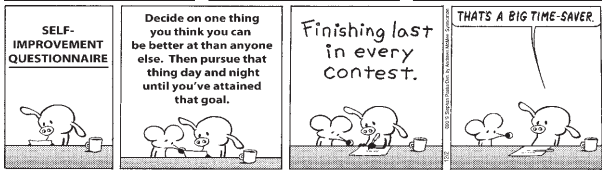
Frazz



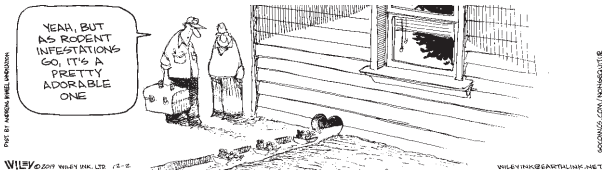
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



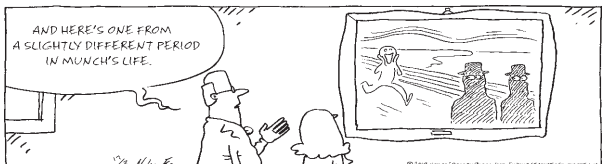
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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| 49 | | | | | | | 50 | | | 51 | | |
| 52 | | | | | | | 53 | | | 54 | | |
| 55 | | | | | | | 56 | | | 57 | | |

ACROSS

- No neatnik
- Glacial
- Ranch visitor
- Verdi opera
- Big D.C. lobby
- about (circa)
- Lusty look
- Battles between gangs
- Reptile with a shell
- Like skim milk
- 2150-and-over org.
- Part of MPH
- Wind farm machines
- Knocks
- Brit. record label
- Univ. divisions
- Anger
- PC programs
- Puccini opera
- Camp bed
- Sunscreen additive
- Handsome guy
- Large soup dish
- Toll road
- Zilch
- Shoppe description
- Huge
- 401(k) relatives

DOWN

- Pretzel topper
- Stead
- Baltic Sea feeder
- Tavern tally
- The Web
- French vineyard
- Fish story
- Depressing experience
- Fearless
- TV explorer
- Formerly, once
- Dandy guy
- Deposited
- Enzerize
- Island in a computer game
- Farm pen
- Mater lead-in
- Pot brew
- Ref
- Parachute parts
- Game plan
- Expert
- Collection
- "Elephant Boy" actor
- Shakespeare poem
- Aslan's land
- Gratuity
- Teensy bit
- As required
- Bloodline sharers
- British noble
- Wax-coated cheese
- Astronauts' org.
- DY buy

Answer to Previous Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | I | A | M | I | S | P | A | S | M | S |
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| S | M | O | O | T | H | A | R | O | U | S |
| P | E | N | N | E | O | N | S | V | H | S |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| I | D | S | R | I | C | H | E | N | O | S |
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| M | E | S | S | E | S | S | T | P | A | T |

12-2

CRYPTOQUIP

NPAW ZMZDLZRF BUHDSLPA
ZDD HZMP EUA OPPDTIQ
LAZBO UE HPFUMTPK ZRUSL

NTKTUI UAQZIK: PWP-LSPK.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SITCOM ACTOR KELSEY WAS UNDERGOING EARLY EDUCATION, I THINK HE WENT TO GRAMMER SCHOOL.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals P

STARS AND STRIPES

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Ernie Gates

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OPINION

Recognizing NATO's reality isn't treasonous

By JACOB HEILBRUNN
Special to The Washington Post

On the eve of the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and a scant month before NATO celebrates its 70th anniversary in London, French President Emmanuel Macron is disrupting the party. During an interview published last month in the Economist, Macron blew a loud raspberry at the military alliance, declaring that Donald Trump's presidency has inflicted "brain death" upon it. Ooh la la! His fellow European leaders are dismissing Macron's remarks as Gallic impertinence; German Chancellor Angela Merkel frostily remarked, "This view does not correspond to mine," while NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg described Germany as being "at the heart of NATO." They need to get over it.

The truth is that Macron has it right. The surprising truth isn't that NATO is an artificial life support. It's that the alliance has lasted as long as this.

In many ways, NATO is a victim of its own success. In 1957, Lord Ismay, the organization's first secretary-general, explained that the purpose of NATO was to "keep the Russians out, the Americans in, and the Germans down." The formula worked. But after 1989, with Russia prostrate and Germany again unified, NATO embarked upon a protracted search for a new one. It substituted a process for a doctrine by deciding to enlarge its membership rather than define its mission. Its welcome mat inadvertently set the stage for a direct confrontation with Moscow as it now directly abetted Russia's borders. The result was a geopolitical outburst: the Russians: NATO helped provoke the very standstill that allowed it to justify its continued

existence.

Until now, a revived Russia threat has allowed the alliance to keep chugging along and some Trump administration officials such as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo are embracing it. During an official visit to Germany to mark the anniversary of reunification, Pompeo stated, "NATO remains an important, critical, perhaps historically one of the most critical, strategic partnerships in all of recorded history." The champions of the alliance can also point to an uptick in U.S. troops stationed in Europe and the upcoming NATO exercise Defender 2020, which will feature more than 37,000 U.S. troops.

But President Donald Trump's own actions and rhetoric suggest that he wants to wave *auf wiedersehen* to the alliance. His willingness to allow Turkey to run roughshod over the Kurds, to attempt to muscle over Ukraine, his ostentatious praise of Russia and his unremitting condemnations of Germany offer ample evidence of his disdain for the Western allies.

In warning about Trump, Macron has put his finger on a fundamental problem, the waning of the will to defend the alliance: all for one and one for all. When asked whether he believed in Article 5's declaration of reciprocal defense obligations when a member is attacked, Macron pointed: "I don't know."

Such doubts will only be multiplied if Trump vows to win the election in 2020 and be further emboldened to pursue his benighted "America First" course. Trump has made it clear that he regards relations with the allies as an economic venture, in which they are supposed to cough up the funds for their own protection, but the evidence shows that the U.S. needs their support in an actual crisis would probably be as reliable as his previous casino

ventures. This is why Macron's apprehensions about the debility of NATO are as timely as they are appropriate.

What can be done? The moment has arrived for France and Germany to adopt more than baby steps to make Europe great again. This would require them to establish a Franco-German condominium to assert their interests, including the joint development of new nuclear weapons to deter Russia and China. It would also allow Europe to win an independent footing from an increasingly hostile United States.

It's always possible that France and Germany would adopt the path of least resistance and seek to placate a revanchist Russia by ceding it a de facto sphere of influence in the Baltics and Eastern Europe.

But there are some promising signs. After decades of inhibitions about the prospect of rearmament, Germany is finally starting to up its military game. Its doughy defense minister, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, who is seeking to cement her bona fides to replace Merkel as chancellor, recently delivered a major speech at the Bundeswehr University in Munich declaring that Germany should participate militarily in Asia to help contain China and that it should become the third-biggest spender on defense (behind China and the United States) by 2031.

For his part, Macron has been pushing a European Intervention Initiative that is supposed to allow Europe to operate independently of either NATO or the U.S. Forewarned is forearmed. When Europe's leaders assemble with Trump this month, they would do well to treat the festivities in London less as an affirmation of NATO than as a remembrance of things past.

Jacob Heilbrunn is the editor of The National Interest.

'Let the voters decide' not just a talking point

By GARY ABERNATHY
Special to The Washington Post

THILLSBORO, Ohio Throughout all the bombshell testimony during the impeachment hearings in the House of Representatives — "bombshell" having been reduced to a synonym for "mildly interesting" — I asked myself only one question: Was there any testimony that would convince enough Senate Republicans to side with Democrats to achieve the two-thirds majority required to convict President Donald Trump and remove him from office?

Based on watching hour upon hour of testimony, reading daily recaps and analysis, and touching base with some in-the-loop GOP contacts, the answer remains "no." In fact, based on facts and analysis so far, it is unlikely that a single Republican in the Senate would vote for conviction, either on the Ukraine matter or on obstruction charges. Why? Four reasons stand out.

First, most GOP senators believe Trump released the official aid package to Ukraine because of his own self-interest. administration officials convinced him to do so, not because a whistleblower had stepped forward, as Democrats argue.

Second, testimony has almost entirely been based on opinions, feelings and secondhand conversations. Democrats counter that Trump is obstructing justice by lying to witnesses with firsthand knowledge, whose direct interactions with Trump, they contend, would be the final nail in the coffin if they established that aid for Ukraine was conditioned on an investigation of former Vice President Joe Biden and his son Hunter. But even if such testimony were to emerge, it's doubtful that would move the

needle, either. Revisionist history aside, it wasn't White House lawyer John Dean's testimony about his Oval Office conversations with Richard Nixon that brought down a president; it was the secret White House tapes with Nixon's own voice.

Third, making obstruction part of the articles of impeachment is fodder for headlines, but the weakest of all possible arguments for conviction. Most Senate Republicans won't support the notion that Trump obstructed investigations into crimes they don't believe he committed in the first place.

Finally, the most important, Republicans have their eyes fixed firmly on the 2020 calendar. With each passing day, "let the voters decide" becomes a more valid refrain. Consider: If the House impeaches in December, the Senate will likely undertake a trial in January, which could stretch into February. What else begins in February? Voting, not just in hotly contested Democratic primaries, but among Republicans too, aside from the few states where the GOP is forging the primary ritual to clear the way for Trump.

Until some primaries scheduled in March, senators will see early voting commence in February. Is the Senate going to remove a duly-elected president from office even as voters are casting ballots for him? There would be no better example of a "deep state" coup than Congress usurping elections that are happening.

Nixonian comparisons abound among Democrats and many in the media. But in GOP circles, the current case is deemed so far removed from Watergate that one longtime Republican operative suggested to me that even if Trump admitted that he conditioned Ukrainian aid on a promise

to investigate the Bidens, it would still fall short of bribery or extortion, or any other impeachable offense. "Quid pro quos are the backbone of Madisonian democracies," he said, and whether it was improper that a political opponent was part of the deal is for the voters to decide, not Congress.

So, where are we? Considering all the media platforms that carried the hearings, viewership was anemic. Polls show support for impeachment going south. Rather than softening, Trump's GOP base is as solidified as ever.

Among those who saw this coming was none other than House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif. Earlier this year, Pelosi told The Washington Post that impeachment needed to be bipartisan because, otherwise, "it divides the country." But by October, she sanctioned what she knew would be a party-line vote to open impeachment proceedings. While some read that as a sign of Pelosi caving to the radical wing of her party, one wonders if she instead is teaching her insurgents a much-needed lesson about heeding her wisdom when future controversies arise.

Will Pelosi's impeachment lead to a vote on whether Republicans deserve their doubts. Most, though, think the majority of House Democrats — even with acquittal certain — are hellbent on tainting Trump with the scarlet "I," just as Republicans branded President Bill Clinton two decades ago. If so, Trump could become the first president in history to be impeached in the House, acquitted in the Senate and reelected. Such a scenario is not implausible. In fact, thanks to the overreach of House Democrats, it's increasingly likely.

Gary Abernathy, a contributing columnist for The Washington Post, is a freelance writer based in Hillsboro, Ohio.

SCOREBOARD: COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Sports
on AFTN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules.
myafn.net

Deals

Saturday's transactions

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
SACRAMENTO KINGS — Recalled FS Wenyen Gabriel and Caleb Swanigan from Stockton (NBA).

FOOTBALL
National Football League
CHICAGO BEARS — Placed QB Sherrick McManis and TE Adam Shaheen on IR. Signed OL Corey Levin and TE Eric Saubert.

CINCINNATI BENGALS — Signed TE Mason Schreck from the practice squad. Activated WR Andrew Whitworth. Activated QB Drew Lock from IR. Waived QB Brett Rypley.

DETROIT LIONS — Placed QB Jeff Driskel on IR. Signed QB Kyle Siler to the American Football League. Signed QB Joe Lanning to the practice squad.

HOUSTON TEXANS — Signed NT Ed Dickerson from the practice squad. Placed G-T Tytus Howard on IR.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Activated LB Jake Ryan from the reserve/IR list. Waived RB Tyler Ervin.

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS — Activated SS Derwin James and Adrian Phillips from IR. Signed WR Jalen Guyton from the practice squad. Waived DT Ty McCall and S Shamoun Lundy. Placed WR Jeremy Davis on IR.

MIAMI DOLPHINS — Signed S Monte Harris from the practice squad. Waived CB Eric Rowe.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Placed LB Zak DeOssie on IR. Signed LS Colin Holiba from the practice squad.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
ANAHEIM DUCKS — Reassigned D Jacob Larsson to San Diego (AHL).
ARIZONA COYOTES — Acquired D Villi Saarjari from Detroit for a 2019-2020 2nd round pick. Signed F Michael Chaput from Tucson (AHL).

DETROIT RED WINGS — Assigned D Jonathan Ericsson to Grand Rapids (AHL).
JERSEY DEVILS — Activated F Kevin Rooney from injured reserve.

MISSOURI COLLEGE
— Fired football coach Barry Odum.

College hockey

Saturday's scores

EAST
New Hampshire 3, Princeton 2
Princeton 2, Massachusetts 1
American International 5, RIT 1
Northeastern 4, Colgate 3
Colgate 4, Holy Cross 3
UConn 4, Miami (Ohio) 3
UConn 4, Brown 3
UMass Lowell 3, Penn St. 2
Maine 1, St. Lawrence 1
UConn 4, Vermont 3
Merrimack 5, RPI 1
UConn 4, Niagara 2
Mercyhurst 2, Robert Morris 2
Cornell 1, Boston U. 1

SOUTH
Michigan 3, Ala. Huntsville 1
Michigan 3, St. Michigan 3
Michigan 3, St. Lawrence 2
Bowling Green 5, Notre Dame 2
Minnesota 3, Minn. Duluth 1
Wisconsin 1, Michigan 2
Vermont 2, Arizona 2
Ferris St. 4, Alaska Anchorage 4
Michigan Tech 2, Alaska 1

AP spotlight

Dec. 2
1907 — Tommy Burns defends his world heavyweight title by knocking out James J. Braddock in the 10th round at London.
1944 — Ohio State quarterback Leslie Horvath wins the Heisman Trophy.
1947 — Notre Dame quarterback Johnny Lanning is named the first player to be inducted in a horse-switching scandal. Cinzano, a purportedly dead 4-year-old champagne cork, was used on Sept. 23 at Belmont Park, under the name of Leona, a 57-1 long shot.

College basketball

Men's Top 25 Fared

Saturday
1. Duke (7-1) did not play. Next: at No. 3 Michigan State, Tuesday.
2. Louisville (7-0) did not play. Next: vs. Michigan, Tuesday.
3. Michigan State (5-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 1 Duke, Tuesday.
4. Kansas (6-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 21 Colorado, Saturday.
5. Texas Tech (7-0) did not play. Next: vs. Marquette, Sunday.
6. North Carolina (6-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 10 Ohio State, Wednesday.
7. Virginia (7-0) did not play. Next: at Purdue, Wednesday.
8. Gonzaga (8-0) did not play. Next: vs. Texas Southern, Wednesday.
9. Kentucky (6-1) did not play. vs. Fairleigh Dickinson, Saturday.
10. Ohio State (7-0) did not play. Next: at No. 6 North Carolina, Wednesday.
11. Oregon (6-1) did not play. Next: vs. Hawaii, Saturday.
12. Texas Tech (7-0) did not play. Next: at DePaul, Wednesday.
13. Seton Hall (6-2) did not play. Next: at Iowa State, Sunday, Dec. 8.
14. Arizona (8-0) did not play. Next: vs. San Jose State, Wednesday.
15. Utah State (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. San Jose State, Wednesday.
16. Memphis (6-1) did not play. Next: vs. Bradley, Tuesday.
17. Tennessee (6-1) beat No. 20 VCU 72-69. Next: vs. Florida A&M, Wednesday.
18. Auburn (7-0) did not play. Next: vs. Furman, Thursday.
19. Baylor (5-1) did not play. Next: vs. Maryland-Eastern Shore, Tuesday.
20. VCU (6-2) lost to No. 17 Tennessee 72-69. Next: vs. Tennessee, Saturday.
21. Colorado (6-0) beat Sacramento State 69-45. Next: vs. Loyola Marymount, Wednesday.
22. Villanova (4-2) did not play. Next: vs. Idaho, Sunday.
23. Washington (5-1) did not play. Next: South Dakota, Monday.
24. Florida (6-2) did not play. Next: at Butler, Saturday.
25. Xavier (7-1) beat Lipscomb 87-62. Next: vs. Green Bay, Wednesday.

Saturday's men's scores

EAST
Albany (NY) 68, American U. 64
Army 66, Marist 64, OT
Buffalo 88, William & Mary 77
Columbia 92, Delaware State 77
Colgate 72, Siena 62
Columbia 88, Lehigh 64
Navy 76, Brown 56
Princeton 88, Bucknell 77
St. Francis (Pa.) 79, Saint Joseph's 63
St. Francis (Ind.) 68, Saint Joseph's 63
St. Peter's 67, St. Francis (N.Y.) 59
UMBC 85, Drexel 60
UConn 80, Georgetown 65
SOUTH
Alabama State 61, Florida Gulf Coast 54
Belmont 71, Middle Tennessee 59
Clemson 81, Charlotte 83
Charlotte 83, SC-Upstate 47
Chattanooga 63, Jacksonville St. 60
FIU 70, New Hampshire 69
Jacksonville 61, NC A&T 45
James Madison 99, East Carolina 89
Louisiana Tech 78, Samford 57
MSU 124, North American 61
Mount St. Mary's 73, Howard 56
New Hampshire 79, Xavier University of Louisiana 62
North Alabama 67, Morehead St. 57
North Dakota 80, Georgia Southern 68
Presbyterian 87, Toccoa Falls 59
Richmond 64, Boston College 44
Tennessee Tech 72, VCU 69
Texas Tech 69, Shorter 53
Tulsa 67, Vanderbilt 58
MIDWEST
Bowling Green 76, Dartmouth 69
Cent. Michigan 88, Youngstown St. 72
Cincinnati 72, UNLV 69
Cleveland St. 70, Robert Morris 59
Cleveland 70, IUPUI 64
Florida St. 63, Purdue 60
Indiana 64, S. Dakota 50
Iowa 62, Missouri 57
Kent St. 67, Stetson 53
Ohio 61, Detroit 81
Texas A&M-CC 55, Rio Grande 52
UConn 68, Oakland 63
UMKC 68, W. Illinois 67
Xavier 87, Wisconsin 62
SOUTHWEST
Arkansas 66, N. Kentucky 60
ETSU 57, UT Dallas 64
Prairie View 79, UTSA 72
Texas Tech 81, Rice 86
Stephen F. Austin 76, Arkansas St. 57
Texas St. 66, McNeese St. 71
Texas Southern 76, Lamar 73

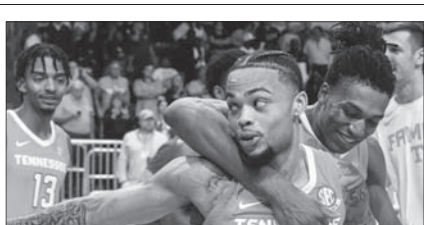
1995 — Notre Dame advances to the NCAA women's soccer championship by becoming the first team to beat 13-time champion North Carolina in the national semifinals. The lone score comes from Tara Heels forward Cindy Parlow accidentally scores a ball into her own net, giving the Irish a 1-0 lead in the 11th minute. The book in a 26-20 win over the New York Jets. Brown becomes the third player to win the Heisman and the third with 14,000 yards receiving. Rich Gannon ties the record for the most passing yards in a season. The on the very next play after Brown's 1,000th catch, Gannon threw a 30-yard pass, giving Oakland a 13-10 lead. It's Rice's record 192nd TD catch and puts him over 1,000 yards receiving for a record 14th season.

Texas State 69, Hartford 55
FAR WEST
BYU 98, Montana Tech 63
CS Bakersfield 87, San Diego Christian 95
CS Northridge 73, Fresno St. 72
Colorado 59, Sacramento St. 45
Fort Wayne 71, Grand Canyon 60
Green Bay 98, Montana St. 72
Hawaii 88, San Francisco 75
N. Arizona 76, South Dakota 72
N. Missouri 66, Denver 66
Santa Clara 70, Cal.-Fullerton 55
Seattle 66, Idaho 55
UC Irvine 77, E. Michigan 56

Saturday's women's scores

EAST
Army 70, Fairleigh Dickinson 68
Buffalo 63, Drexel 59
Columbia 74, Milwaukee 46
Fordham 59, Lehigh 57
Fresno St. 82, Georgetown 69
Green Bay 79, Syracuse 73
Harvard 77, Quinnipiac 58
IUPUI 85, St. John's 78
LNU Brooklyn 88, Hofstra 46
La Salle 74, UMBG 58
Maryland 90, Belmont 26
Monmouth (N.J.) 60, Fort Wayne 46
Navy 82, Kennesaw St. 62
Northeastern 72, N. Dakota St. 61
Saint Joseph's 72, American U. 51
Wagner 81, Col. State 57
William & Mary 73, Delaware St. 52
SOUTH
Clemson 77, Alcorn St. 46
Davidson 75, ETSU 60
Florida 69, Duke 69
Furman 72, Gardner-Webb 67
Georgia Tech 71, Virginia Tech 72
Kansas 60, FAU 60
SU 89, Mercer 68
Louisville 72, Oregon 62
Miami 88, Miami (Ohio) 62
Morehead St. 73, Radford 62
Norfolk St. 71, Jacksonville 64
North Dakota St. 61, Charleston Southern 57
North Florida 64, Nicholls 61
Old Dominion 67, Idaho 55
Penn St. 52, NC Central 66
Pittsburgh 58, Mississippi 50
Rutgers 48, Georgia Tech 43
South Carolina 74, Baylor 59
Southern Cal. 68, Alabama 57
Southern Miss 51, VCU 39
UCI 56, UCF 56
Virginia 55, James Madison 49
Wake Forest 76, East Carolina 53
MIDWEST
Butler 60, Ohio 55
CS Northridge 67, Indiana St. 59
Cincinnati 67, Marist 54
Drake 94, Maine 62
Illinois 71, Presbyterian 67
Indiana 78, Marist 47
Indiana 78, Washington St. 44
Michigan St. 68, Kansas St. 59
Nebraska 72, Sacred Heart 49
Notre Dame 67, South Florida 51
Ohio St. 68, Iowa 46
Purdue 59, Indiana St. 52
Rio Grande 75, UTSA 64
St. Francis (Pa.) 61, Louisville 48
Tennessee Tech 69, Detroit 47
UConn 88, Oklahoma 61
Wright St. 66, Loyola (Md.) 51
SOUTHWEST
Arkansas 68, Wisconsin 61
Cent. Arkansas 57, Jackson St. 54
Marquette 61, Tulsa 60
Oklahoma St. 60, Texas-Arlington 47
The Roberts 66, Sam Houston 41
Rice 71, N. Arizona 57
San Francisco 80, Houston 57
Texas 63, Texas Tech 57
Texas Tech 69, Houston 57
UTEP 71, Georgia 68

FAR WEST
Alabama 67, San Diego 83
Arkansas St. 71, West State 62
The Grizzlies 69, California Baptist 64
Cal Poly St. 57, Lamar 56
Cal State Fullerton 61, Long Beach 45
Delaware 81, Santa Clara 80
Elon 50, UNLV 46
Florida 61, Middle Tennessee 50
Montana 71, Cal.-Fullerton 69
New Mexico 69, Oregon 59
NC State 68, Hawaii 59
New Mexico State 68, Irvine 60
Oregon St. 68, Liberty 55
Portland 69, Sacramento 62
Portland St. 70, UC Davis 70
Saint Mary's (Cal.) 80, W. Kentucky 73
Texas Tech 67, Mississippi 52
Texas Tech 64, San Diego 60
Utah Valley 71, Utah Valley Front Range 61
Valley 61
Texas Tech 79, New Mexico 76
Washington 70, Iowa 63
Yale 81, Loyola Marymount 65



MARK WALLIN/ESP/AF

Tennessee guard Lamonte Turner, front, reacts to hitting the winning shot at the buzzer in the Emerald Coast Classic against Virginia Commonwealth in Niceville, Fla., Saturday. Tennessee won 72-69.

Roundup

Turner's clutch free lifts Vols past VCU

Associated Press

NICEVILLE, Fla. — Tennessee coach Rick Barnes saved a timeout in the waning seconds against VCU, allowing the Volunteers to take the frontcourt and shoot the ball with 1.7 seconds remaining in a tie game. And he knew he had a player he could count on in that situation.

Lamonte Turner hit a three-pointer at the buzzer from the right corner, giving the 17th-ranked Volunteers a 72-69 victory over No. 20 VCU in the Emerald Coast Classic third-place game on Saturday.

"He's got a feel for it," Barnes said. "He's competitive. That's what we always thought his biggest talent is. He's competitive, spirited, and he's not afraid to make the play in that kind of situation. There's no doubt that in late-game situations, it's not as much about plays as it is about players."

VCU's De'Riante Jenkins hit a three-pointer with 5 seconds left to tie the game at 69-69. After the timeout, the Vols' point guard took a pass from James Joshua-Jordan and got the shot off as the clock ran out.

"I leaned back so I could see the rim," Turner said. "I knew it was good the second it left my hand."

Turner's shot spoiled a dramatic comeback by the Rams (6-2), who trailed by as many as 13 points in the second half.

John Fulkerson led Tennessee (6-1) with 17 points and seven rebounds.

Marcus Santos-Silva led basketball with 22 points.

No. 21 Colorado 59, Sacramento State 45: Tyler Bey pulled down 17 rebounds and scored 11 points and the host Buffaloes fended off scrappy Sacramento State.

Colorado improved to 6-0 for the second time in three seasons, but it wasn't easy. The Hornets (4-1) were within striking distance at 45-40 after the only basket of the night by their leading scorer, Joshua Patton.

Even Battey added 11 points and McKinley Wright IV scored 10 for Colorado, which closed the game on a 14-5 run, the Buffs' only dominant stretch of the night.

No. 25 Xavier 87, Lipscomb 62: Tyrique Jones had his fourth double-double of the season, Paul Scruggs scored 15 points, and the host Musketeers recovered from their first loss by beating Lipscomb.

Jones finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds, leading a surge late in the first half that put Xavier (7-1) in control. Naji Marshall scored nine consecutive points for Xavier in the second half and finished with 13.

Army 66, Marist 64 (OT): Matt Wilson fed Alex King for a dunk to tie the game in overtime, then hit two free throws to lift the Black Knights over Marist.

The teams combined for just six points in the extra period. Braden Bell hit a jumper a half-minute into overtime, putting the Red Foxes in front, but they could not manage another point the rest of the way.

Army's Tommy Funk scored at the basket with 11 seconds left in regulation to tie the game at 62-62 and Wilson made a steal to force overtime.

Wilson finished with 16 points, 11 rebounds and five assists to lead the Black Knights (3-3).
Navy 76, Brown 56: John Carter Jr. matched his career-best with 26 points and Cam Davis added 24 points for the visiting Midshipmen (4-3). Carter, Greg Summers and Luke Locher each had a team-high six rebounds.

NHL

Roundup

Provorov lifts Flyers past Habs in OT

Associated Press

MONTREAL — Ivan Provorov got Montreal another win with one impressive move.

Provorov scored 31 seconds into overtime, and the Flyers beat the Montreal Canadiens 4-3 Saturday for their fourth straight victory.

Oskar Lindblom, Kevin Hayes and Travis Konecny also scored for the Flyers (15-7-5), who were coming off a 6-1 win over Detroit on Friday. Brian Elliott made 39 saves.

Provorov got past Max Domi with a nifty dangle in the offensive zone, and then beat Keith Kinkaid for his sixth of the season. It was the 36th career goal for the 22-year-old defenseman.

“Our whole bench was yelling that it was a forward playing defense as Provorov went down,” Konecny said. “It’s not surprising because he did that in junior a lot. He has a lot of skill.”

The Canadiens (11-9-6) dropped their seventh consecutive game. Tomas Tatar had two goals, and Joel Armia also scored. Kinkaid stopped 25 shots.

“It feels like everything is going against us right now,” forward Nick Cousins said. “We’re not really getting many breaks. I thought this game was a step in the right direction. We got one point but there are no moral victories here.”

Montreal star Carey Price, who conceded 16 goals in his past three games, rested.

The Canadiens got off to a fast start. Armia stormed down the wing and beat Elliott on the black-ice into his ninth goal 19 seconds into the game.

“We showed character throughout the 60 minutes,” Tatar said. “We were pretty happy with our game, how it went. It hurts that it didn’t go our way in overtime.

“We can build on a lot of positives from today.”

Rangers 4, Devils 0: Alexander Georgiev stopped 33 shots for his third career shutout, leading surging New York to a win at New Jersey.

New York improved to 4-0-1 in its past five games. Mika Zibanejad had a goal and an assist, and Jesper Fast, Adam Fox and Brady Skjei also scored.

Mackenzie Blackwood had 19 saves for New Jersey, which went 0-for-8 on the power play while giving up two short-handed goals. It lost for the fourth time in six games.

Maple Leafs 2, Sabres 1 (OT): John Tavares scored at 1:45 of overtime and picked up his 400th NHL assist as host Toronto split a home-and-home series with Buffalo.

Tavares’ 10th goal of the season helped the Maple Leafs improve to 4-1-0 in their last five games. William Nylander also scored for Toronto (13-11-4). Frederik Andersen made 29 saves in victory.

Rasmus Ristolainen scored for the Sabres (12-10-5). Carter Hutton made 41 saves in defeat and fell to 0-5-3 in his last eight games.



GRAHAM HUGHES/AP

The Philadelphia Flyers’ Ivan Provorov, right, scores the game-winning goal against Montreal Canadiens goaltender Keith Kinkaid. The Flyers won 4-3 in overtime Saturday in Montreal.

Flames 3, Senators 1: Elias Lindholm scored the deciding goal late in the third period and added an empty-netter, leading host Calgary to a win over Ottawa.

New Flames coach Geoff Ward won for the second time in as many games. He was also a winner on Wednesday night, when Calgary beat Buffalo 3-2 in overtime.

Flames head coach Bill Peters resigned on Friday amid allegations of racial slurs and physical abuse of players in previous jobs. Peters’ resignation came after a lengthy process that included investigations by the Flames and the NHL.

Hurricanes 3, Lightning 2: James Reimer made 36 saves, Sebastian Aho and Jacob Slavin each had a goal and an assist, and Carolina won at Tampa Bay.

The Hurricanes also got a goal from Jordan Martinook. Dougie Hamilton had two assists.

Brayden Point and Tyler Johnson scored for the Lightning, who have lost three straight (0-2-1). Curtis McElhinney stopped 21 shots.

Islanders 2, Blue Jackets 0: Mathew Barzal had a goal and an assist, Semyon Varlamov got his second shutout of the season, and host New York beat Columbus.

Anders Lee also scored to help the Islanders get a win in the return from an 0-2-1 California trip that ended their franchise-record 17-game point streak. Thomas Greiss started and made nine saves before leaving with a 5:54 left in the first period. Varlamov came on and stopped all 30 shots he faced to earn his 27th career shutout.

Panthers 3, Predators 0: Chris Driedger posted a shutout in his first career start, Anton Stralman scored his first two goals of the season and host Florida beat Nashville.

Driedger stopped 27 shots in his first appearance with the Panthers. The 25-year-old appeared in three games for Ottawa between 2014-17 but had never started in the NHL.

Alexander Barkov added his eighth goal as the Florida won

for the first time in four games. It was the Predators’ first loss in regulation in the past five games.

Capitals 5, Red Wings 2: Alex Ovechkin completed a hat trick with two empty-net goals and Washington dealt host Detroit its ninth straight loss.

Ovechkin reached 40 goals for the 15th consecutive season to start his career, a feat previously achieved by Marcel Dionne, Mike Gartner, Jaromir Jagr and Mats Sundin. The 34-year-old Ovechkin also had an assist.

T.J. Oshie had a goal and an assist, Tom Wilson also scored and Evgeny Kuznetsov had three assists for the Capitals. Ilya Samsonov stopped 25 shots.

Blues 4, Penguins 1: Justin Faulk and Nathan Walker each scored for the first time with host St. Louis.

Jaden Schwartz had a goal and an assist and Ivan Barbashev and Mackenzie MacEachern also scored for the Blues, who won their third straight game and have points in their last four. Jordan Binningman made 28 saves and improved to 13-4-4.

Sharks 4, Coyotes 2: Logan Couture scored twice and San Jose got four unanswered goals to rally to a win at Arizona for its 11th win in 13 games.

Couture bookended the Sharks’ comeback, starting it midway through the first period and completing it with an empty-netter. He has five goals and 14 points in his past 10 games.

Avalanche 7, Blackhawks 3: Mikko Rantanen had a goal and three assists in his return to Colorado’s lineup after missing 16 games due to injury, and Nazem Kadri and Joonas Donskoi each scored twice in the win over visiting Chicago.

Nathan MacKinnon added a goal and two assists and Tyson Jost also scored to help the Avalanche sweep the two-game set.

Kings 2, Jets 1: Joakim Ryan and Nikolai Prokhorkin each scored and host Los Angeles beat Winnipeg.

Jack Campbell made 33 saves for the Kings, who have won six of their past eight home games.

Canucks 5, Oilers 2: Tanner Pearson recorded the first four-point game of his career, leading Vancouver to a win at Edmonton.

Pearson had two goals and two assists and Tyler Graovac, Loui Eriksson and Josh Leivo also scored for the Canucks. Bo Horvat also chipped in with three assists to help Vancouver snap its three-game losing streak.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

| | Atlantic Division | | | | | Metropolitan Division | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|----|----|----|-----|-----------------------|-----|---|----|-----|
| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GP | W | L | OT | Pts |
| Boston | 26 | 13 | 8 | 5 | 31 | 94 | 93 | | | |
| Florida | 26 | 13 | 8 | 5 | 31 | 94 | 93 | | | |
| Toronto | 26 | 13 | 11 | 2 | 30 | 89 | 82 | | | |
| Buffalo | 27 | 12 | 10 | 5 | 29 | 78 | 82 | | | |
| Montreal | 26 | 12 | 11 | 3 | 28 | 88 | 93 | | | |
| Tampa Bay | 24 | 12 | 9 | 3 | 27 | 88 | 79 | | | |
| Ottawa | 27 | 11 | 15 | 1 | 23 | 69 | 84 | | | |
| Detroit | 29 | 13 | 19 | 7 | 37 | 62 | 115 | | | |

| | Atlantic Division | | | | | Metropolitan Division | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|----|----|----|-----|-----------------------|----|---|----|-----|
| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GP | W | L | OT | Pts |
| Washington | 28 | 15 | 4 | 9 | 43 | 104 | 83 | | | |
| N.Y. Islanders | 24 | 17 | 5 | 2 | 36 | 71 | 58 | | | |
| Philadelphia | 27 | 16 | 9 | 2 | 30 | 85 | 78 | | | |
| Carolina | 27 | 16 | 10 | 1 | 33 | 88 | 76 | | | |
| Pittsburgh | 27 | 14 | 9 | 4 | 32 | 93 | 78 | | | |
| N.Y. Rangers | 25 | 9 | 3 | 13 | 29 | 83 | 83 | | | |
| Columbus | 26 | 11 | 11 | 4 | 26 | 66 | 80 | | | |
| New Jersey | 25 | 9 | 12 | 4 | 22 | 65 | 90 | | | |

Western Conference

| | Central Division | | | | | Pacific Division | | | | |
|-----------|------------------|----|----|----|-----|------------------|----|---|----|-----|
| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GP | W | L | OT | Pts |
| St. Louis | 26 | 17 | 5 | 6 | 40 | 86 | 75 | | | |
| Colorado | 26 | 16 | 9 | 1 | 34 | 97 | 75 | | | |
| Winnipeg | 27 | 16 | 10 | 1 | 33 | 77 | 76 | | | |
| Dallas | 27 | 15 | 10 | 2 | 32 | 73 | 65 | | | |
| Nashville | 26 | 12 | 10 | 4 | 28 | 87 | 89 | | | |
| Minnesota | 26 | 11 | 11 | 4 | 26 | 76 | 84 | | | |
| Chicago | 26 | 10 | 12 | 5 | 25 | 74 | 81 | | | |

| | Central Division | | | | | Pacific Division | | | | |
|-------------|------------------|----|----|----|-----|------------------|----|---|----|-----|
| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GP | W | L | OT | Pts |
| Edmonton | 28 | 16 | 5 | 3 | 35 | 88 | 82 | | | |
| Arizona | 28 | 15 | 9 | 4 | 34 | 78 | 67 | | | |
| San Jose | 28 | 15 | 12 | 1 | 31 | 82 | 91 | | | |
| Vancouver | 27 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 30 | 80 | 81 | | | |
| Vegas | 28 | 13 | 11 | 4 | 30 | 83 | 81 | | | |
| Calgary | 29 | 12 | 8 | 9 | 29 | 73 | 86 | | | |
| Anaheim | 27 | 11 | 12 | 4 | 26 | 71 | 82 | | | |
| Los Angeles | 27 | 11 | 14 | 5 | 25 | 74 | 81 | | | |

Notes: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Friday’s games
Boston 3, N.Y. Rangers 2, OT
Winnipeg 3, Anaheim 0
Philadelphia 6, Detroit 1
Minnesota 7, Ottawa 2
Buffalo 6, Toronto 4
San Jose 4, Los Angeles 1
Colorado 5, Chicago 2
Washington 4, Tampa Bay 3, OT
Vegas 2, Arizona 1, 5:30
Columbus 5, Pittsburgh 2
Nashville 3, Carolina 0
St. Louis 3, Dallas 1

Saturday’s games
N.Y. Rangers 4, New Jersey 0
Philadelphia 4, Montreal 3, OT
Washington 5, Detroit 2
Calgary 3, Ottawa 1
Carolina 3, Tampa Bay 2
N.Y. Islanders 2, Columbus 0
Toronto 2, Buffalo 1, OT
Florida 3, Nashville 0
San Jose 4, Arizona 2
St. Louis 5, Pittsburgh 2
Colorado 7, Chicago 1
Vancouver 5, Edmonton 2
Los Angeles 2, Winnipeg 1

Sunday’s game
Dallas at Minnesota
Montreal at Boston
Edmonton at Vancouver

Monday’s games
Vegas at N.Y. Rangers
New Jersey at Buffalo
N.Y. Islanders at Detroit
Los Angeles at Chicago
Los Angeles at Anaheim

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LETTERS TO SANTA

NBA

Efficiency expert: Harden scores 60 in just 3 quarters

By KRISTIE RIEKKE
Associated Press

HOUSTON — James Harden's performance on Saturday night was enough to make even those who see him put up gaudy numbers night after night stop back and marvel at his work.

Harden scored a season-high 60 points in 31 minutes and the Houston Rockets sent the struggling Atlanta Hawks to their 10th straight loss with a 158-111 romp.

"It's like everything else he does — unbelievable," coach Mike D'Antoni said.

Harden came one point shy of matching his career high and franchise record on a night he made eight three-pointers and 20 free throws. He watched the entire fourth quarter from the bench with Houston up 127-73 at the end of the three.

"What he's doing has not been seen," teammate Austin Rivers said. "My man had 60 and didn't play the fourth quarter. Name another player who could do that right now."

It was Harden's fourth career 60-point game, tying him with Michael Jordan for third-most in NBA history, trailing only Kobe Bryant (six) and Wilt Chamberlain (3). Harden is the only active player who has scored 60 points more than once.

But as usual he wasn't interest-

ed in talking about reaching 60 points while spending an entire quarter on the bench.

"Nope," he said before walking off and repeating the word two more times.

The Rockets were missing starters Clint Capela and Daniel House because of illnesses, but still had no trouble handling an Atlanta team that hasn't won since Nov. 12, thanks to Harden's huge night.

"We try to do what we have to do against James, which is throw a lot of bodies at him," Hawks coach Lloyd Pierce said. "Try and put him under duress. He just didn't feel us."

Atlanta was never really in this one and was down by 20 points or more for most of the game. The flat effort came a night after the Hawks fell by one point in overtime to the Pacers in a game where Trae Young tied career highs with 49 points and eight three-pointers.

Young led the Hawks with 37 points and had five three-pointers, but it wasn't nearly enough to offset Harden's game.

The Rockets raced out to a 14-5 lead and had stretched their advantage to 81-52 by halftime behind 31 points from Harden for their third 80-point first half in franchise history.

As good as Harden was in the first two quarters, it was nothing



MICHAEL WYKE/AP

Rockets guard James Harden (13) had 60 points in 31 minutes in a 158-111 defeat of the Atlanta Hawks in Houston on Saturday.

compared to how he dominated in the third. Houston was up 83-56 early in the period before he scored all of the team's points in an 18-3 run that made it 101-59 with 7 minutes left in the period.

Harden made three three-pointers and was fouled on three-point attempts three other times in that stretch. He had eight assists, three rebounds, three steals and blocked a shot to go along with his 60-point effort.

After the third quarter, Harden was sitting on the bench with a towel draped over his shoulders

when he was shown on the video board with a note that said he was two points shy of setting his career high. Harden looked at the screen, read the note and pointed at it while opening his mouth wide in fake shock as if to say: "I was so close," before smiling broadly.

"Yeah I was playing with the fans a little, but honestly I didn't know," he said. "But we played a really good game those first three quarters so it was an opportunity for other guys to play minutes that they've earned."

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

| Atlantic Division | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Toronto | 14 | 4 | .778 | — |
| Boston | 13 | 5 | .722 | 1 |
| Philadelphia | 14 | 6 | .700 | 1 |
| Brooklyn | 10 | 9 | .526 | 4½ |
| New York | 4 | 15 | .211 | 10½ |
| Southeast Division | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Miami | 13 | 5 | .722 | — |
| Orlando | 11 | 7 | .610 | 1½ |
| Charlotte | 8 | 13 | .381 | 6½ |
| Washington | 6 | 11 | .353 | 6½ |
| Atlanta | 4 | 16 | .200 | 10 |
| Central Division | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Milwaukee | 17 | 2 | .850 | — |
| Indiana | 12 | 7 | .632 | 4½ |
| Detroit | 6 | 13 | .316 | 10½ |
| Chicago | 6 | 14 | .300 | 11 |
| Cleveland | 5 | 14 | .263 | 11½ |

Western Conference

| Southwest Division | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Houston | 13 | 6 | .684 | — |
| Dallas | 12 | 6 | .667 | ½ |
| San Antonio | 7 | 13 | .350 | 6½ |
| New Orleans | 6 | 13 | .316 | 7 |
| Memphis | 5 | 13 | .278 | 7½ |
| Northwest Division | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Denver | 13 | 4 | .765 | — |
| Utah | 12 | 7 | .632 | 2 |
| Minnesota | 10 | 8 | .556 | 3½ |
| Portland | 8 | 12 | .400 | 6½ |
| Oklahoma City | 11 | 8 | .589 | 6½ |

| Pacific Division | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| L.A. Lakers | 17 | 2 | .895 | — |
| L.A. Clippers | 14 | 6 | .700 | 3½ |
| Phoenix | 8 | 10 | .444 | 8½ |
| Sacramento | 8 | 10 | .444 | 8½ |
| Golden State | 4 | 16 | .200 | 13½ |

Friday's games

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Brooklyn 110, Detroit 107 | |
| Toronto 90, Orlando 83 | |
| Philadelphia 119, Cleveland 110 | |
| Philadelphia 101, New York 95 | |
| Indiana 105, Atlanta 104 | |
| Miami 122, Golden State 105 | |
| Oklahoma City 109, New Orleans 104 | |
| San Antonio 107, L.A. Clippers 97 | |
| Dallas 120, Phoenix 113 | |
| Portland 102, Chicago 103 | |
| L.A. Lakers 125, Washington 103 | |

Saturday's games

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Sacramento 100, Denver 97 | |
| OKC 119, Indiana 111 | |
| Houston 158, Atlanta 111 | |
| Milwaukee 137, Charlotte 96 | |

Sunday's games

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Miami at Brooklyn | |
| Boston at New York | |
| Memphis at Minnesota | |
| Dallas at L.A. Lakers | |
| Oklahoma City at New Orleans | |
| San Antonio at Detroit | |
| Golden State at Orlando | |
| Utah at Toronto | |
| Washington at L.A. Clippers | |

Monday's games

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Phoenix at Charlotte | |
| Utah at Philadelphia | |
| Golden State at Atlanta | |
| Indiana at Memphis | |
| New York at Milwaukee | |
| Chicago at Sacramento | |

Roundup

Bucks rout Hornets, win 11th in a row

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 26 points but his double-double streak ended at 19 games when he grabbed nine rebounds while playing only 20 minutes as Milwaukee coasted over Charlotte.

The Bucks (17-3) won their 11th straight game and matched their highest point total of the season. They held a 17-point halftime lead and extended it to 101-75 entering the fourth quarter, allowing the reigning MVP to sit out the final period.

Antetokounmpo's streak of double-doubles to open a season left him short of Bill Walton's record of 34 with the Portland Trail Blazers in 1976-77. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar also had 29 for the Los Angeles Lakers in 1975-76.

Milwaukee put nine players in double figures and finished November with a franchise-best 15-1 record, losing only on a buzzer-beating shot in Utah on Nov. 8. The Bucks have the league's second-best record, behind the Los Angeles Lakers (17-2).

Devonte' Graham led the Hornets (8-13) with 24 points and Terry Rozier added 19.

76ers 119, Pacers 116: Joel Embiid had 32 points and 11 rebounds and Ben Simmons had three steals in the final 13.9 seconds to lead Philadelphia. Simmons finished with 15 points, 13 assists, six

rebounds and four steals. Tobias Harris scored 22 points for the 76ers, who won their third straight while improving to 9-0 at home.

T.J. Warren had 29 points and Malcolm Brogdon added 28 for Indiana, which had won five straight. Indiana opened a grueling five-game, seven-day road trip.

Kings 100, Nuggets 97 (OT): Harrison Barnes scored six of his season-high 30 points in overtime, Buddy Hield hit two free throws with 9.5 seconds left and host Sacramento rallied to beat Denver.

The Kings trailed by 17 at halftime and didn't lead until Barnes made a jumper early in overtime. Gary Harris' three-pointer put the Nuggets up 95-94, but Barnes answered with two free throws and scored on a short lean-in shot.

Harris made two free throws before Hield answered with two of his own to help Sacramento end a six-game losing streak against Denver. The Nuggets failed to get off a shot in the final 15 seconds.

Nemanja Bjelica had 10 points and 12 rebounds for the Kings. Richaun Holmes added 13 points and 10 rebounds, and Hield had 21 points despite an off-night shooting.

Harris scored 18 of his 25 points in the first quarter. Will Barton added 14 points, 12 rebounds and five assists. Jamal Murray scored 15 points.

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NFL

Stakes alive: Game provides plenty of playoff implications

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Just like a year ago, there's no avoiding the importance of this Monday night matchup in the Pacific Northwest between Minnesota and Seattle.

Except this time around, a division title is still very much in play for both teams.

"This is a huge game for both of us. We know the stakes. Everybody knows the stakes," Vikings linebacker Eric Kendricks said. "Monday night makes it a little bit bigger, in Seattle. But I mean, we've got to live for these kind of moments, you know what I mean?"

For the second straight year, the Seahawks will host the Vikings in a late-season, prime-time matchup filled with playoff implications. But unlike that last meeting — won by Seattle 21-7 — when a wild-card berth was the target, the Vikings and Seahawks are in the middle of division title races this time.

Seattle (9-2) is one game behind San Francisco in the NFC West and trying to avoid any stumbles prior to a Week 17 meeting with the 49ers at home. The Vikings (8-3) are even with Green Bay in the NFC North, but the Packers already have a win over Minnesota with a Week 16 matchup still to come.

Both teams would need to finish for a significant slide in the final week to put their playoff hopes in jeopardy. The Vikings have a two-game lead on the Los Angeles Rams in the wild-card race. Seattle is a game better.

But the shot at a division title raises the stakes significantly.

"We got a terrific schedule coming up, challenges and all that," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "We're going to have to play really well. I do think, though, that it leads us to our best football still ahead of us."

QB battle

While the playoff implications are the primary focus, the quarterback battle will certainly get their share of attention. It's deserved as both Seattle's Russell Wilson and Minnesota's Kirk Cousins have been among the best in the league this season. Cousins leads the league in passer rating; Wilson is second. Wilson has 24 TD passes; Cousins 21. Both have thrown just three interceptions. Both are completing better than 67% of their passes.

Time for a refresher

After missing four starters in their previous game against Denver on Nov. 17 — wide receiver Adam Thielen, right guard Josh Kline, nose tackle Linval Joseph, free safety Anthony Harris — the Vikings had the advantage of the latest possible bye week to heal



Minnesota Vikings (8-3)
at Seattle Seahawks (9-2)

AFN-Sports
2:15 a.m. Tuesday CET
10:15 a.m. Tuesday JKT

for the most challenging game of the final stretch. This was the second-latest bye week in team history, with only the break in 1991 falling later on the calendar. The Vikings are 2-7 in the last nine seasons in their games immediately after the bye.

"Give your body a rest, give your mind a rest. I think it came at a good time," linebacker Anthony Barr said. "Hopefully we get some guys back healthy and be strong for this last five-game push we have."

Carrying the load

For most of the season, Chris Carson has carried the load for Seattle's run game, while Rashad Penny took on a complementary role, only getting a handful of carries.

That changed last week against the Eagles. Penny was the star, rushing for a career-high 129 yards and a clinching 58-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter. Carson was relegated to a lesser role, getting only eight carries to Penny's 14. Carson also added to

his league-leading fumble total with one that was credited to him and another that was his fault. Carson's seven fumbles are the most among running backs in the NFL.

Carroll said Penny has earned more carries, but Carson will still get his share.

"Rashaad did great," Carroll said. "We need his explosiveness. He continues to show up. He has had the real home run type of style of play. We've got to give him chances to bring that to us."

Oh, brother

For the fourth straight season, Eric Kendricks will take on the team of his older brother and fellow linebacker, Mychal Kendricks. Eric has lost each time, with the Vikings falling at Philadelphia in 2016 and in the NFC championship game after the 2017 season, and then at Seattle in 2018.

"We're not going to face each other, really, but it's pretty special," Eric said of his sibling who's two years older. They were both second-round draft picks. Mychal out of California in 2012 by the Eagles and Eric out of UCLA in 2015 by the Vikings.

These days, Eric is definitely not in Mychal's shadow. He leads all linebackers in the NFL with 12 passes defended, already matching Ben Leber (2008) and Matt Blair (1981) for the most by a linebacker in Vikings history. According to SportRadar research, no linebacker in the league has had more than 13 passes defended in any of the last six seasons.

Scoreboard

American Conference

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---------------|----|----|---|------|-----|-----|
| New England | 10 | 1 | 0 | .909 | 300 | 117 |
| Buffalo | 9 | 3 | 0 | .750 | 257 | 188 |
| N.Y. Jets | 7 | 4 | 0 | .636 | 245 | 217 |
| Miami | 2 | 9 | 0 | .182 | 163 | 346 |
| South | | | | | | |
| Houston | 7 | 4 | 0 | .636 | 265 | 249 |
| Indianapolis | 6 | 5 | 0 | .545 | 244 | 226 |
| Tennessee | 6 | 5 | 0 | .545 | 245 | 217 |
| Jacksonville | 4 | 7 | 0 | .364 | 209 | 264 |
| North | | | | | | |
| Baltimore | 9 | 2 | 0 | .818 | 386 | 202 |
| Pittsburgh | 6 | 6 | 0 | .500 | 246 | 212 |
| Cleveland | 5 | 6 | 0 | .455 | 233 | 252 |
| Cincinnati | 0 | 11 | 0 | .000 | 157 | 292 |
| West | | | | | | |
| Kansas City | 7 | 4 | 0 | .636 | 308 | 256 |
| Oakland | 6 | 5 | 0 | .545 | 228 | 284 |
| L.A. Chargers | 4 | 7 | 0 | .364 | 224 | 218 |
| Denver | 3 | 8 | 0 | .273 | 175 | 217 |

National Conference

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---------------|----|---|---|------|-----|-----|
| Dallas | 6 | 6 | 0 | .500 | 310 | 236 |
| Philadelphia | 5 | 6 | 0 | .455 | 243 | 247 |
| N.Y. Giants | 5 | 6 | 0 | .455 | 217 | 308 |
| Washington | 2 | 9 | 0 | .182 | 144 | 269 |
| South | | | | | | |
| New Orleans | 10 | 2 | 0 | .833 | 298 | 248 |
| Carolina | 5 | 6 | 0 | .455 | 259 | 291 |
| Tampa Bay | 4 | 7 | 0 | .364 | 312 | 335 |
| Atlanta | 3 | 8 | 0 | .250 | 260 | 323 |
| North | | | | | | |
| Green Bay | 8 | 3 | 0 | .727 | 258 | 242 |
| Minnesota | 8 | 3 | 0 | .727 | 289 | 205 |
| Chicago | 6 | 6 | 0 | .500 | 212 | 208 |
| Detroit | 3 | 8 | 1 | .292 | 280 | 315 |
| West | | | | | | |
| San Francisco | 10 | 2 | 0 | .818 | 332 | 163 |
| Seattle | 9 | 2 | 0 | .909 | 322 | 263 |
| L.A. Rams | 6 | 5 | 0 | .545 | 249 | 243 |
| Arizona | 3 | 8 | 1 | .273 | 248 | 317 |

Thursday's games

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Chicago 24, Detroit 20 | Buffalo 26, Dallas 18 |
| New Orleans 26, Atlanta 18 | Sunday's games |
| Tampa Bay at Jacksonville | Tampa Bay at Jacksonville |
| Cleveland at Pittsburgh | Cleveland at Pittsburgh |
| Green Bay at N.Y. Giants | N.Y. Jets at Cincinnati |
| Tennessee at Indianapolis | Washington at Carolina |
| San Francisco at Baltimore | Philadelphia at Atlanta |
| L.A. Rams at Denver | Oakland at Kansas City |
| New England at Houston | Monday's games |
| Minnesota at Seattle | Thursday, Dec. 5 |
| Dallas at Chicago | Sunday, Dec. 8 |
| Washington at Green Bay | Indianapolis at Tampa Bay |
| San Francisco at New Orleans | Carolina at Atlanta |
| Detroit at Minnesota | Denver at Baltimore |
| Baltimore at Buffalo | Miami at N.Y. Jets |
| Cincinnati at Cleveland | L.A. Chargers at Jacksonville |
| Pittsburgh at Arizona | Tennessee at Oakland |
| Kansas City at New England | Seattle at L.A. Rams |
| Monday, Dec. 9 | N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia |

Seahawks' Penny says he's ready to do more

By CURTIS CRABTREE
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Coming off a career-best performance last week against the Philadelphia Eagles, Seattle Seahawks running back Rashad Penny is eager for his next opportunity to show he's capable of carrying the rushing load.

"I'm young. I've got a lot (more) carries under my belt. I can take a lot of load if they want me to. I'm just happy to get the opportunity more than anything," Penny said.

Penny rushed for 129 yards on 14 carries with a touchdown against the Eagles last Sunday. Penny had three carries go for at least 20 yards, including a 58-yard touchdown run early in the fourth quarter that effectively sealed a 17-9 victory over Philadelphia.

"It was great to see him come through and make some big plays and big runs and looked so darn fast on his touchdown run," coach Pete Carroll said.

Penny is looking to do more on Monday when the Seahawks host the Vikings. He was Seattle's first-round draft pick a season ago, but he's been overshadowed by Chris Carson during his first two seasons in the NFL. A broken finger in training camp served as an early setback and adjusting to Seattle's shotgun-heavy attack after playing in a mostly two-back offense at San Diego State was another hurdle to overcome.

Meanwhile, Carson has been mostly stellar as the team's lead rusher. That reality has forced Penny into a complementary role where he'd only seen 85 total snaps in seven games played all season entering last week's game in Philadelphia. But Penny was ready to make the most of his chances when they came.

"It was just the opportunity," Penny said. "Finally able to run the ball and get in a groove."

Penny said he's lighter this season after committing to a nutrition plan throughout the season. He continually gained weight as his rookie season progressed and it didn't allow him to produce the way he wanted to. He's now at 230 pounds and is able to maintain his nimbleness.

"He sure has an explosive style that shows up," Carroll said. "It's his burst, he's got really good feet, really unique, quick feet."

Penny made cornerback Rasul Douglas miss in open space on a 21-yard carry early in the fourth quarter. Two plays later, he sliced through a well-blocked front and sprinted by safety Rodney McLeod into the clear. A feeble tackle attempt from Ronald Darby came at the 13-yard line as Penny bounced off the Eagles cornerback and walked in for the 58-yard touchdown that gave Seattle a 17-3 lead.



Bradley McDougald celebrates after intercepting a Philadelphia Eagles pass during the Seahawks' 17-9 win last week. The Seahawks and the Vikings, their opponent on Monday, have shots at division titles.

MATT ROURE/AP

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Air Force defensive lineman Mosefe Fifita, top, sacks quarterback Levi Williams in the Falcons' 20-6 win Saturday.

Scoreboard

Saturday's scores

EAST
Boston College 26, Pittsburgh 19
Marshall 30, FIU 27, OT
Penn St. 27, Rutgers 6
Syracuse 39, Wake Forest 30, OT
Temple 49, UConn 27

SOUTH
Auburn 48, Alabama 45
Charlotte 38, Old Dominion 22
Clemson 38, South Carolina 3
Coastal Carolina 24, Texas State 21
Duke 27, Miami 17
FAU 34, Southern Miss. 17
Florida 40, Florida St. 17
Georgia 52, Georgia Tech 27
Georgia Southern 38, Georgia St. 10
Kentucky 45, Louisville 13
LSU 50, Texas A&M 7
Liberty 49, New Mexico St. 28
Louisiana 41, UTSA 27
Louisiana-Lafayette 31, Louisiana-Monroe 30
North Carolina 41, NC State 10
Southern U. 30, Grambling St. 28
Tennessee 28, Vanderbilt 10
Tulsa 49, East Carolina 24
W. Kentucky 31, Middle Tennessee 26

MIDWEST
Indiana 44, Purdue 41, 2OT
Kansas St. 27, Iowa St. 17
Michigan St. 19, Maryland 16
Northwestern 29, Illinois 10
Ohio St. 56, Michigan 27
Wisconsin 35, Minnesota 17

SOUTHWEST
Navy 55, Houston 41
Oklahoma 34, Oklahoma St. 16
UTEP 16
SMU 37, Tulane 20
UAB 26, North Texas 21

FAR WEST
Air Force 20, Wyoming 6
Arizona St. 24, Arizona 14
California 28, UCLA 18
Cincinnati 45, Stanford 24
Oregon 24, Oregon St. 10
San Diego St. 13, BYU 3
San Jose St. 17, Fresno St. 16
UNLV 33, Nevada 30, 3OT
Utah 45, Colorado 15
Utah St. 38, New Mexico 25

FCS playoffs

First Round, Saturday, Nov. 30
Monmouth (NJ) 40, Holy Cross 27
Albany (NY) 42, Central Conn. State 14
Illinois State 24, SE Missouri State 6
Northern Iowa 17, San Diego 3
Austin Peay 42, Furman 6
Kennesaw State 28, Wofford 21
Nicholls 24, North Dakota 44
SE Louisiana 45, Virginia 44

Second Round, Saturday, Dec. 7
Monmouth (NJ) (11-2) at James Madison (11-1)
Northern Iowa (9-4) at South Dakota State (8-4)
Illinois State (11-2) at Weber State (9-3)
Albany (NY) (9-4) at Montana State (9-3)
Southeastern Louisiana (8-4) at Montana State (9-3)
Illinois State (9-4) at North Arkansas (9-4)
Nicholls (9-4) at North Dakota State (12-0)
Austin Peay (10-3) at Sacramento State (9-3)

Quarterfinals, Friday, Dec. 13 or Saturday, Dec. 14
Nicholls vs. Dakota State winner vs. Illinois State-Central Arkansas winner
Albany (NY)-Montana State winner vs. Austin Peay-Sacramento State winner
Kennesaw State-Southern Louisiana winner vs. SE Louisiana-Montana State winner
Furman (NY)-James Madison winner vs. N. Iowa St. Dakota State winner

Semifinals, Saturday, Dec. 21
TBD

Championship, Saturday, Jan. 11
At Toyota Stadium
Frisco, Texas

Semifinal winners

NCAA Division III playoffs

First Round, Saturday, Nov. 23
Shepherd 31, Indiana (Pa.) 27

Kutztown 33, Triffin 31
Notre Dame (Ohio) 31, West Chester 24
West Florida 38, Wingate 17
Carson-Newman 17, Bowie State 17
Lenoir-Rhyne 36, Miles 7
Central Missouri 37, Indianapolis 27
Lindenwood (Mo.) 41, Ouachita Baptist 38

Second Round, Saturday, Nov. 30
Notre Dame (Ohio) 20, Kutztown 17
Slippery Rock 51, Shepherd 30
West Florida 38, Valdosta State 35
Ferris State 37, Central Missouri 10
Northwest Missouri State 63, Lindenwood (Mo.) 7

Quarterfinals, Saturday, Dec. 7
Slippery Rock (12-0) vs. Notre Dame (Ohio) (12-1)
West Florida (10-2) vs. Lenoir-Rhyne (13-0)
Ferris State (11-0) vs. Northwest Missouri State (12-1)
Minnesota State (12-0) vs. Texas A&M-Commerce (11-2)

NCAA Division III playoffs

First Round, Saturday, Nov. 23
Huntington 27, Berry 24
Warburg 41, Hope 3
Salisbury 83, NY Maritime 0
Union (N.J.) 24, Case Western Reserve 12

Second Round, Saturday, Nov. 30
Muhlenberg 38, MIT 0
Brooklyn 33, Western New England 28
Wisconsin Whitewater 35, Monmouth (Ill.) 10
Mary Hardin-Baylor 43, Redlands 14
Wisconsin Whitewater 35, Monmouth (Ill.) 10
Wheaton (Ill.) 51, Martin Luther 7
Central (Conn.) 38, Wisconsin-Oshkosh 37
Saint John's (Minn.) 51, Aurora 47
North Central (Ill.) 51, Washburn 15
Calumet 68, Linfield 17

Quarterfinals, Saturday, Nov. 30
Salisbury 62, Union (N.J.) 41
Muhlenberg 42, Brockport 0
Delaware Valley 45, Wesley 10
Mary Hardin-Baylor 42, Huntington 6
Wisc. Whitewater 41, Warburg 28
Wheaton 49, Central (Conn.) 13
Saint John's (Minn.) 51, Chapman 26

Quarterfinals, Saturday, Dec. 7
Muhlenberg (12-0) at Salisbury (11-0)
North Central (Ill.) (11-1) at Delaware Valley (11-1)
Wisconsin Whitewater (11-1) at Mary Hardin-Baylor (11-1)
Saint John's (Minn.) (11-1) at Wheaton (Ill.) (12-0)

NIAA playoffs

First Round, Saturday, Nov. 23
Morningside 57, Dickinson State 14
Marion (Ind.) 17, Reinhardt 7
Kansas Wesleyan 42, Baker 7
Grand View 31, Concordia (Mich.) 30
Lincoln-Wilson 30, St. Francis (Ind.) 26
Saint Xavier 25, Northwestern (Iowa) 24

Second Round, Saturday, Nov. 30
College of Idaho 70, Atlanta (Ariz.) 23
Cumberlands (Ky.) 29, Keaner 24

Quarterfinals, Saturday, Nov. 30
Morningside vs. Saint Xavier 0
Lincoln-Wilson 35, Kansas Wesleyan 24
Grand View 14, Concordia 10

Semifinals, Saturday, Dec. 7
Grand View (Iowa) (13-0) at Morningside (Iowa) (12-0)
Lincoln-Wilson (Ky.) (12-0) at Marion (Ind.) (11-0)

Championship, Saturday, Dec. 21
At Eddie G. Robinson Stadium
Ruston, La.
Semifinal winners

Service Academies roundup

Carothers' 4 TDs carry Navy

Sophomore fullback helps Midshipmen outscore Houston

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Jamele Carothers finished one rushing touchdown shy of tying the American Conference record.

He didn't care. Following the high-scoring affair against Houston, Carothers and Navy were just happy to walk out with the victory.

Carothers rushed for career highs of 188 yards and five touchdowns, Malcolm Perry ran for 146 yards and a touchdown and the No. 24 Midshipmen beat the Cougars 56-41 Saturday night.

Carothers scored on runs of 17, 19, 29 and 75 yards, and CJ Williams and Tyreek King-El also rushed for touchdowns for Navy (9-2, 7-1 American).

"When you're going with the fullback, obviously Jamele did a fabulous job," Midshipmen coach Ken Niumatalao said. "The O-line did a great job of blocking, and he did a great job of running... He's so versatile what he can do."

Navy ran for 447 yards and outgained Houston (4-8, 2-6) 554-527.

"Any given night, whatever the defense gives us, we will take," Perry said. "Whatever they don't give us, we will work our hardest to get it. We have weapons all over the field, and we are not one-dimensional. We can move the ball."

Perry, who also threw for 107 yards, set a school record with his ninth 100-yard rushing game this season and tied a school record with his eighth consecutive 100-yard rushing game.

"It was a little more high-scoring than what we're used to," Perry said. "The offense went to town, executed, found a way to outscore them. At the end of the day, that's all that matters."

The Cougars' Clayton Tune threw for 393 yards, a career-high four touchdowns and four interceptions and rushed for 61 yards.

Air Force 20, Wyoming 6: On a cold, blustery day when defense figured prominently, free safety Jeremy Fejedelem helped swing the game in favor of the host Falcons.

Fejedelem led the strong defensive effort with his first two interceptions of the season, Donald Hammond III ran for one touchdown and threw for another, and Air Force rolled to its seventh straight win amid gusting winds and near freezing temperatures.

"It's always good when you can make a big play like that for the team," said Fejedelem, who made both interceptions after the ball was deflected. "But I really didn't have to do much. My teammates tipped them off for me."

The turnovers thwarted Cowboy's drives and produced time-consuming drives ending in two



ERIC CHRISTIAN SMITH/AP

Navy safety Kevin Brennan (10) intercepts a pass in the end zone intended for Houston wide receiver Marquez Stevenson during Navy's 56-41 win Saturday in Houston.

field goals by Jake Koehnke.

"When we get 3-and-outs, that doesn't help our defense, and our defense was spectacular today," said Hammond, who was 5-for-6 for 121 yards passing, including a 75-yard touchdown pass to Ben Waters in the closing minutes. "Granted we didn't do what we needed to do on every possession but the long drives helped us out at the end of the day."

Hammond also ran 15 times for 35 yards, including a short touchdown run for the Falcons (10-2, 7-1 Mountain West). Air Force's win streak is its longest in a single season since it won eight in a row in 1998, which is also the last time the Falcons finished with 10 or more wins in the regular season.

Levi Williams and Tyler Vander Waal split time at quarterback for Wyoming (7-4, 4-4) with Williams finishing 6-for-11 for 84 yards and Vander Waal going 4-for-7 for 27 yards. Each had an interception in Wyoming's first loss to Air Force in the last four meetings between the teams.

Hawaii 52, Army 31: Cole McDonald came off the bench to pass for 250 yards and three touchdowns to rally the Rainbow Warriors.

Hawaii (9-4) overcame 411

yards rushing by the Black Knights (5-7) to extend its winning streak to four games.

McDonald, who missed a few practices earlier in the week due to flu-like symptoms, entered the game late in the second quarter after an injury to starting quarterback Chevan Cordeiro and finished 19-for-29 passing without an interception.

Army starting quarterback Kelvin Hopkins Jr. was knocked out of the game in the second quarter. With backup Jabari Laws on the mend, third-stringer Christian Anderson filled in and finished with a game-high 114 rushing yards on 12 carries.

However, Anderson exited the game with an apparent injury in the closing minutes and freshman Jemel Jones finished out the game for the Black Knights, who finished with 538 total yards.

"(Anderson) did a good job after Kelvin got hurt," Army coach Jeff Monken said. "I was proud of his effort and I thought he made some plays. Unfortunately he got hurt as well and we played the freshman (Jones) and he made some good plays for us, but overall it wasn't enough; it wasn't enough by our team."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



RICK BOWMER/AP

Utah defensive end Bradlee Anae, right, sacks Colorado's Steven Montez on Saturday in Salt Lake City.

Kuithe's 3 TDs lift No. 6 Utah

One-loss Utes clinch Pac-12 South with victory over Colorado

BY MATTHEW COLES
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — After Utah's lone stumble this season — a 30-23 loss at Southern California in September — quarterback Tyler Huntley called a media-only meeting.

Huntley is known for his short answers with media and he didn't need to long to get his message across that day. He told his teammates they were a team of destiny and that loss wouldn't define the season.

"I told them we needed to focus and we would knock over any obstacle in our way," Huntley said as he walked off the field after No. 6 Utah's Pac-12 South clinching 45-15 victory over Colorado on Saturday night. "I told them we had it in us to accomplish what we wanted. And now here we are. We're here!"

The Utes (11-1, 8-1, No 6 CFP) needed a quarter to

get rolling in 25-degree temperatures, but romped to their eighth straight victory as Brant Kuithe scored three touchdowns. Huntley was 14-for-17 for 165 yards and connected with Kuithe twice for scores.

"It was a little cold outside," Huntley said of the Utes punting on their first three possessions. "We started out slow, but we handled business."

Auburn did the Utes a favor in the College Football Playoff race by outlasting No. 5 Alabama 48-45 on Saturday. The Utes could be sitting in fifth when the next selection committee rankings come out on Tuesday. Utah faces No. 14 Oregon on Friday.

Steven Montez threw for 157 yards on 17-of-26 passing for Colorado (5-7, 3-6), setting two major career records as he eclipsed Sefo Lufu on the Colorado passing (9,649 yards) and total offense (10,614 yards) lists in his final game.

Kuithe caught touchdown passes of 38 and 7 yards and ran 15 yards for a score. The tight end also had a 44-yard run on a jet sweep.

Brooks, No. 7 Sooners top Cowboys

BY CLIFF BRUNT
Associated Press

STILLWATER, Okla. — Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy said Oklahoma quarterback Jalen Hurts was a one-man show.

Kennedy Brooks proved otherwise. He rushed for 160 yards and a touchdown to help No. 7 Oklahoma beat No. 21 Oklahoma State 34-16 on Saturday night.

"I didn't agree a whole lot with the one-man show thing," Oklahoma coach Lincoln Riley said. "However we get defined, as long as we're winning and offensively, we're scoring enough points to win — that's all I care."

In his past four games, Brooks has rushed for 534 yards and averaged 67 yards per carry. "Kennedy is a great ballplayer, and he has done well long before I came here," Hurts said. "I think we've got a lot of good players, and we ride the player who has the hot hand. Ultimately, it's about winning games."

Gundy said the Cowboys focused on Hurts, which left Brooks



SUE OOROCK/AP

The Sooners' Kennedy Brooks rushed for 160 yards and a touchdown, proving No. 7 Oklahoma is more than just a one-man show on Saturday in a 34-16 win over Oklahoma State.

with room to run.

"He played pretty good," Gundy said. "He was rushing through big holes, not getting touched for

six, seven yards."

Hurts passed for 163 yards and a touchdown, rushed for 63 yards and a score and caught a 4-yard touchdown pass for the Sooners (11-1, 8-1 Big 12, No. 7 CFP) in their fifth straight victory in the series.

Oklahoma has won 21 consecutive November games dating to 2014. The Sooners will play Baylor in the Big 12 championship game next Saturday.

Oklahoma State's Chuba Hubbard, the nation's leading rusher, ran for 104 yards and a touchdown for his 10th consecutive game with at least 100 yards rushing. Hubbard was still well short of his usual production — he entered the night averaging 166.5 yards rushing per game.

"The few times he did get loose, I felt we did a good job of bringing him down to the ground," Riley said. "We didn't let him pop a big one."

The Cowboys (8-4, 5-4, No. 21 CFP) had their four-game winning streak snapped.

Loss: Crimson Tide will miss playoff for first time

FROM BACK PAGE

that would have tied it, and committed 13 penalties, including a game-ender. And Auburn benefited from a video review stoppage that let the Tigers get off a field goal with a second left in the first half.

All that happened to Alabama, and it lost by three to a top-15 team.

"I know our fans are disappointed, but I can promise you that our players are disappointed, and we're all very, very disappointed," Saban said. "It's my responsibility to get our team to do these things better, and that certainly will be the goal in the future."

The dynasty is most certainly not dead, but Alabama is out of it in November and in this era of college football that is a very big deal.

Here we are again: Over the last 15 years, Ohio State is 17-2 against Michigan. That includes the coaching tenures of Jim Tressel, Urban Meyer and now Ryan Day, who moved to 1-0 by dropping 56 on the 10th-ranked Wolverines.

This is not a Jim Harbaugh problem, but it is very much Jim Harbaugh's problem.

Under Harbaugh, Michigan is 0-5 against Ohio State and only one of those games was close. Harbaugh has done many things right at Michigan. The Wolverines have won a dozen games since Lloyd Carr retired in 2007. In seven seasons under Rich Rodriguez and Brady Hoke, Michigan went 46-42 with three losing seasons.

Michigan lured Harbaugh back to his alma mater with a mountain of money to fix the Wolverines and he has pretty much done that. Michigan is 47-17 under Harbaugh and with a bowl victory it will have had four 10-win seasons. Harbaugh's winning percentage is currently .734. Carr's was .753 in 13 seasons at Michigan. Bo Schembechler's was .796 in 21 seasons as Wolverines' coach.

Harbaugh does not have a big-game problem. His teams have beaten highly ranked teams from Wisconsin, Penn State and Notre Dame. He has flipped the Michigan State rivalry back in the Wolverines' favor. He just can't beat Ohio State.

While Harbaugh has done well to reestablish Michigan as a consistent top-10 to -15 program, Ohio State has taken off like a rocket ship, going 95-9 in the eight seasons since Meyer took over. After Alabama and Clemson, the Buckeyes are in the next tier of elite programs that includes ... maybe Oklahoma. Maybe Georgia? LSU this year.

The Buckeyes that rolled into the Big House on Saturday might be the best of this era, which includes the 2014 national champs.

Harbaugh is going nowhere unless he unexpectedly decides he wants to try the NFL again. He certainly sounded as if he was tired of answering the same questions every year about how



BUTCH DILL/AP

Tigers DE Marlon Davidson celebrates during Saturday's 48-45 victory over the Alabama Crimson Tide in Auburn, Ala.

to explain the gap between the Buckeyes and Wolverines.

"I'll answer your questions, but not your insults," Harbaugh said to a reporter.

To think a different coach would fix this for Michigan seems to miss the depth of the problem. Harbaugh has made Michigan as good as it has always been. The problem is Ohio State is better than it has ever been.

OK, Dabo: Clemson coach Dabo Swinney has really played up the "slight" of being just the No. 3 team in the country this season.

After trouncing South Carolina, Swinney said: "I mean, we've got to go (undefeated). We've got to go 30-0. We ain't got no choice. Because we don't play nobody."

It's getting a little old, but Swinney has made a living (a really good one) on being the guy who proves everybody wrong. Lil' ol' Clemson is long gone, but everybody loves to play the disrespect card. Plus, what better way to get your team, which is a four-touchdown favorite every week, focused when the opponents might not?

Playoff picture: Playoff skepticism has always worried a postseason tournament could make late-season games involving highly ranked teams less important, that teams could be playing for seeding. Well, that's sort of the case heading into this championship weekend.

No. 1 LSU and No. 2 Ohio State (flip-flop) that order in the CFP rankings) appear to be in good shape to make the playoff no matter what happens in their respective championship games.

The Tigers face No. 4 Georgia. A Bulldogs victory likely means two Southeastern Conference teams in the final four. Ohio State gets a rematch with Wisconsin, which has already lost twice.

No. 3 Clemson might not have the luxury of a loss against three-touchdown underdog Virginia in the ACC title game.

If Georgia loses, that opens up a spot to either No. 6 Utah, which gets No. 14 Oregon in the Pac-12 title game, or the winner of the Big 12 title game between No. 7 Oklahoma and No. 11 Baylor.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Saturday's stars

- J.K. Dobbins, Ohio State, ran for 211 yards and four TDs to help the No. 2 Buckeyes rout No. 10 Michigan 56-27 for a school-record eighth straight win in the series.
- Joe Burrow, LSU, padded his Heisman Trophy resume with 352 yards and three touchdowns passing and the No. 1 Tigers beat Texas A&M 50-7.
- Lynn Bowden, Kentucky, set an SEC record by a quarterback with 284 yards rushing and scored four TDs as the Wildcats blew out rival Louisville 45-13 in the Governor's Cup showdown.
- Jaylen Waddle, Alabama, caught three TD passes and scored on a 98-yard kickoff return in the No. 5 Crimson Tide's 48-45 loss to No. 16 Auburn.
- Trevor Lawrence, Clemson, threw for 295 yards and three TDs to lead the No. 3 Tigers to their 27th straight victory and second consecutive 12-0 regular season with a 38-3 victory over rival South Carolina.
- Jake Fromm, Georgia, threw four TD passes and the No. 4 Bulldogs cruised into the Southeastern Conference championship game with a 52-7 victory over Georgia Tech.
- Brant Kuithe, Utah, scored three TDs and the No. 6 Utes looked up a spot in the Pac-12 championship game for the second consecutive season with a 45-15 victory over Colorado.
- Kennedy Brooks, Oklahoma, rushed for 160 yards and a TD to help the No. 7 Sooners beat No. 21 Oklahoma State 34-16.
- James Robinson, Illinois State, rushed for 297 yards in a 26-6 win over Southeast Missouri in a first-round FCS playoff game.
- Chason Virgil, SE Louisiana, threw for 474 yards and three TDs in a 45-44 win over Villanova in the FCS playoffs.
- Jamarle Carothers, Navy, rushed for career highs of 188 yards and five TDs as the No. 24 Midshipmen beat Houston 56-41.
- Zach Smith, Tulsa, threw a career-high five TD passes in a 49-24 win over East Carolina.
- Pete Guerriero, Monmouth, ran for 220 yards and TDs as the Hawks beat Holy Cross 44-27 for the program's first FCS playoff victory.
- Ian Book, Notre Dame, threw for 255 yards and four TDs and the No. 15 Fighting Irish reached double-digit wins for the third straight season by beating Stanford 45-24.
- Frankie Hickson, Liberty, ran for career-best of 196 yards and four TDs to lead the Flames to a 49-28 victory over New Mexico State.

— The Associated Press



BRYAN WOOLSTON/AP

Kentucky quarterback Lynn Bowden Jr. runs for a touchdown during the second half on Saturday against Louisville in Lexington, Ky. Bowden set an SEC record for a quarterback with 284 yards rushing and scored four TDs.

How the AP Top 25 fared

- 1** **LSU (11-0)** beat Texas A&M 50-7. Joe Burrow padded his Heisman Trophy resume with 352 yards and three touchdowns passing, and the Tigers beat Texas A&M for its first unbeaten regular season since 2011. Burrow has 4,366 yards and 44 touchdowns passing this season, smashing LSU single-season records in both categories.
Next vs. No. 4 Georgia, SEC championship, Saturday.
- 2** **Ohio State (12-0)** beat No. 10 Michigan 56-27. J.K. Dobbins ran for four touchdowns, Justin Fields threw four scoring passes and the Buckeyes beat the Wolverines for a school-record eighth straight win in the series. Dobbins rushed for 211 yards on 31 carries. Fields was 14 of 25 for 302 yards.
Next vs. No. 13 Wisconsin, Big Ten championship, Saturday.
- 3** **Clemson (12-0)** beat South Carolina 38-3. Trevor Lawrence threw for 295 yards and three touchdowns to lead Clemson to its 27th straight victory and second consecutive 12-0 regular season. Travis Etienne ran for two touchdowns to break ACC marks for career touchdowns (57) and rushing scores (53).
Next vs. Virginia, ACC championship, Saturday.
- 4** **Georgia (11-1)** beat Georgia Tech 52-7. Jake Fromm threw four touchdowns passes and the Bulldogs cruised into the Southeastern Conference championship game with his biggest win ever over its state rival.
Next vs. No. 1 LSU, SEC championship, Saturday.
- 5** **Alabama (40-45)** beat No. 16 Auburn 48-45. Shaun Shivers scored on an 11-yard run with 8:08 left to put the Tigers ahead and another fabled field goal in the Iron Bowl wiped away the Crimson Tide's playoff hopes.
Next: TBD.
- 6** **Utah (10-1)** beat Colorado 45-15. Brant Kuithe scored three touchdowns and Utah is locked up a spot in the Pac-12 championship game with a victory over Colorado. The Utes needed a quarter to get rolling, but romped to their eighth-straight victory. Tyler Huntley was 14-for-17 for 165 yards and connected with Kuithe twice for touchdowns.
Next vs. No. 14 Oregon, Pac-12 championship, Friday.
- 7** **Oklahoma (10-1)** beat No. 21 Oklahoma State 34-16. Kennedy Brooks rushed for 160 yards and a touchdown to help the Sooners beat the Cowboys. Jalen Hurts passed for 163 yards and a touchdown, rushed for 63 yards and a score and caught a touchdown pass.
Next vs. No. 11 Baylor, Big 12 championship, Saturday.
- 8** **Florida (9-2)** beat Florida State 24-10. Jake Tasker threw three first-half touchdowns passes, including two to Freddie Swain, and the Gators hammered rival Florida State to end a four-game, home losing streak in the series. Florida scored touchdowns on four of its first five possessions and was able to start celebrating before halftime.
Next: TBD.
- 9** **Minnesota (10-2)** lost to No. 13 Wisconsin 38-17. Tanner Morgan passed for 296 yards and two touchdowns for the Gophers. They watched their dream season take a painful hit from their oldest rival after ending a 14-game losing streak to the Badgers a year ago.
Next: TBD.
- 10** **Michigan (9-3)** lost to No. 2 Ohio State 56-27. The Wolverines will have to settle for a second- or third-tier bowl game after they lost to Ohio State for the 15th time in 16 years. Shea Patterson was 18-for-41 for 305 yards and a touchdown.
Next: TBD.
- 11** **Baylor (11-1)** beat Kansas 61-6. Ja'Mychal Hasty rushed for three touchdowns and Baylor forced six turnovers. Charlie Brewer threw for 182 yards and a touchdown as the Bears equaled the school record for wins in Matt Rube's third season as coach.
Next vs. No. 7 Oklahoma, Big 12 championship, Saturday.
- 12** **Penn State (10-2)** beat Rutgers 27-6. Journey Brown ran for 103 yards with three touchdowns and the Nittany Lions pulled away from Rutgers. Will Levis played quarterback for Penn State in place of injured started Sean Clifford and added 108 rushing yards on 17 carries and a 42-yard touchdown pass to Jahan Dotson.
Next: TBD.
- 13** **Wisconsin (10-2)** beat No. 9 Minnesota 38-17. Jack Coan delivered two momentum-shifting touchdown passes in the snow for Wisconsin. Jonathan Taylor added three touchdowns to his FBS-leading total and the Badgers repossessed Paul Bunyan's Axe to win the Big Ten West Division.
Next vs. No. 2 Ohio State, Big Ten championship, Saturday.
- 14** **Oregon (10-2)** beat Oregon State 24-10. Justin Herbert threw for 174 yards and a touchdown in his final game at Autzen Stadium and Oregon held off Oregon State in the 123rd Civil War rivalry game.
Next vs. No. 6 Utah, Pac-12 championship, Friday.
- 15** **Notre Dame (10-2)** beat Stanford 45-24. Ian Book threw for 255 yards and four touchdowns and Notre Dame reached double-digit wins for the third straight season. Book threw two TD passes to Chase Claypool and also connected with Tony Jones Jr. and Tommy Tremble to help the Irish snap a five-game losing streak at Stanford Stadium.
Next: TBD.
- 16** **Auburn (9-3)** beat No. 5 Alabama 48-45. Auburn survived a final, marathon Crimson Tide drive when Joseph Bulova's 30-yard field-goal attempt hit the left upright with 2 minutes left. Alabama was called for illegal substitution after the Tigers lined up for a punt, setting off a fist-pumping celebration for the Tigers.
Next: TBD.
- 17** **Memphis (11-1)** beat No. 18 Cincinnati 34-24, Friday. Brady White threw for 233 yards and two touchdowns and the Tigers beat the Bearcats for their third straight American Athletic Conference West title and the right to host the league championship — and Cincinnati again — next week.
Next at No. 18 Cincinnati, AAC championship, Saturday.
- 18** **Cincinnati (10-2)** lost to No. 17 Memphis 34-24, Friday. The league championship will be a rematch between these teams after Memphis snapped a nine-game winning streak by the East Division champs. Cincinnati hadn't lost since being routed by Ohio State on Sept. 7.
Next vs. No. 17 Memphis, AAC championship, Saturday.
- 19** **Iowa (9-3)** beat Nebraska 27-24, Friday. Keith Duncan kicked a 48-yard field goal with a second left to lift Iowa past Nebraska and keep the Cornhuskers out of the postseason for a third consecutive season.
Next at Nebraska, Friday.
- 20** **Boise State (11-1)** beat Colorado State 31-24, Friday. Jaylin Henderson accounted for three scores, defensive tackle David Moa came up with a big late sack and Boise State beat Colorado State to finish undefeated in Mountain West Conference play for the first time.
Next vs. Hawaii, MWC championship, Saturday.
- 21** **Oklahoma State (8-3)** lost to No. 7 Oklahoma 34-16. Chuba Hubbard, the nation's leading rusher, ran for 104 yards and a touchdown for his 10th consecutive game with at least 100 yards rushing, but the Cowboys had their four-game winning streak snapped.
Next: TBD.
- 22** **Appalachian State (11-1)** beat Troy 48-13. Zac Thomas passed for 326 yards and four touchdowns and rushed for a fifth score to lead Appalachian State past Troy in the regular-season finale. The win assured the Mountaineers of hosting the Sun Belt Conference title game.
Next vs. Louisiana-Lafayette, Sun Belt championship, Saturday.
- 23** **Virginia Tech (8-4)** lost to Virginia 39-30, Friday. Bryce Perkins put up 475 yards of offense, Brian Deleany kicked a go-ahead 48-yard field with 1:23 to play and Virginia sealed it with a defensive score, beating Virginia Tech to end a 15-game losing streak in the rivalry and earn the Cavaliers' first trip to the ACC championship game. Hendon Hooker ran for one touchdown and threw for another for the Hokies.
Next: TBD.
- 24** **Navy (9-2)** beat Houston 56-41. Jamarle Carothers rushed for career highs of 188 yards and five touchdowns, Malcolm Perry ran for 146 yards and a touchdown for the Mid. Perry, who also threw for 107 yards, set a school record with his ninth 100-yard rushing game this season.
Next vs. Army, Saturday, Dec. 14.
- 25** **Southern Cal (8-4)** did not play. The Trojans have likely earned a trip to the Alamo Bowl in San Antonio on New Year's Eve. Whether they'll make it with coach Todd Helton remains to be seen. Helton's future will dominate discussion until it is resolved.
Next: TBD.

SPORTS

**No wasted effort**Harden lights up Hawks for 60 points in 3 quarters » **Page 19****COLLEGE FOOTBALL**

Crushing blow

Iron Bowl loss to Auburn sinks Alabama's playoff hopes

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

Sometimes it is just not your year. Even if you are the greatest dynasty in college football history.

The playoff will be played without Alabama for the first time after Auburn won a wild Iron Bowl on Saturday 48-45.

So that's it. No debates about resumes, eye tests or how much the Crimson Tide would be favored on a neutral field against this team or that.

No. 5 Alabama has lost two regular-season games for the first time since 2010.

Nick Saban's Tide have not only won five national championships since 2009, but three other times they entered the postseason with a chance to win it.

Twice it lost to Clemson in the national championship game. Once Urban Meyer's Ohio State team knocked Alabama out in the first round of the playoff.

The last time Alabama was relegated to just a bowl game was 2013, when the Kick-Six sent Alabama to the Sugar Bowl, where it lost to Oklahoma.

Of course, another failed field goal in the Iron Bowl played a part in the Tide's demise this time.

This season will be seen as something of a fail-

ure — or at least a disappointment — in Tuscaloosa. But think about everything it took to take down the Tide.

The defense was faulty most of the season after a string on injuries left Alabama leaning on freshman linebackers. The Tide lost by five to No. 1 LSU, with a gimpy Tua Tagovailoa making a couple of uncharacteristic mistakes. Then Alabama lost Tagovailoa for good to a hip injury.

The Tide's playoff hopes were shaky at best going into the Iron Bowl, with backup quarterback Mac Jones leading the way. Jones had his moments, good and bad. He threw two picks returned for touchdowns, including one that bounced off a receiver's back when the Tide were on the door step. Alabama dinked a 30-yard field goal

SEE LOSS ON PAGE 22

Alabama Crimson Tide DB Xavier McKinney, right, loses his helmet as Auburn RB Shaun Shivers plows through him for a touchdown during the second half of the Iron Bowl on Saturday in Auburn, Ala.

BUTCH DILL/AP

**FB Carothers leads Navy to win over Houston » Page 21**